

MIDLANDS

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

THE ESSENTIAL NIGHTLIFE +
CLUBBING GUIDE

ISSUE 205 £3.50 MAY 2014

INSIDE

EUROVISION
HAS MOLLY GOT WHAT
IT TAKES TO WIN?

DERREN BROWN
AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH THE GAY ILLUSIONIST

BOYS DON'T DANCE
CARLOS PONS GUERRA
TALKS DANCE AND PRIDE

**LGBT DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**
A DIFFERENT
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PRIDE ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL
18th July - 3rd August

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Saturday 2nd August 2014

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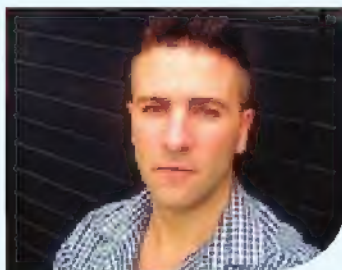


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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

The merry month of May is upon us, and that means the 2014 Pride season is underway. What it also means, of course, is that the city of Birmingham is once again hosting its very own Pride festival, the eighteenth such event since that tentative inaugural bash way back in the 20th century - or 1997, to be precise!

Pride in Pride 2014



And what an event Pride is promising to be. We've got a bumper Pride feature in this issue to help you navigate your way through two days of fun-packed partying, so I'll refrain from using these particular column inches to wax lyrical in any amount of detail about the pleasures that lie in wait come the 24th and 25th of this month.

What I *will* point out, however, is that the second city's annual LGBT shindig has never been in better shape - so if you've not attended before, this really is the perfect year to gird your loins and dip your toe in the rainbow-coloured water.

If there's one element of Pride 2014 that I *would* like to flag up here, though, it's got to be the Carnival Parade, not only because it kicks off the event in real style but also because of its theme this year - Equality And Freedom Around The World. At a time when the gay community in the UK are celebrating the legalising of same-sex marriage, our LGBT brothers and sisters in other parts of the world are facing terrible atrocities on account of their sexuality. It's right and proper that Birmingham Pride acknowledges this, and that, as our own situation here on home soil becomes ever more acceptable, we share a thought for those who're far less fortunate, and whose LGBT status sees them being treated like second-class citizens. In many cases, of course, gay people around the world have to endure an even more profound kind of suffering, such as loss of their liberty, terrible torture and, in some cases, even the threat of the death penalty.

So this Birmingham Pride, be proud of the city, be proud of this most colourful of festivals, be proud of the progress which has been made in terms of LGBT rights here in the UK. And alongside that feeling of pride, determine to offer whatever help and support you can to those global LGBT citizens less fortunate than ourselves.

Having a domestic...



Not that everything in the garden is rosy for the LGBT community here in Great Britain. According to reports, domestic violence is a feature of one in every four LGBT relationships - a staggering and wholly unacceptable statistic. While society in general is waking up to the disturbing realities of domestic violence, it would seem that the gay community is lagging behind a little when it comes to recognising the extent to which it's a problem. A new campaign by Birmingham LGBT has been designed to try and raise awareness of the issue, and we must hope that it isn't too long before talking about this way-too-prevalent form of abuse becomes something with which we're all a lot more comfortable.

Eurovision success?



Which just leaves me space to remind you that the month of May isn't just about Birmingham Pride. It is, of course, about the Eurovision Song Contest too!

This year's bash takes place in Copenhagen, where the hitherto unknown, Leicestershire-born Molly Alice Smitten-Downes will be flying the flag for the United Kingdom. Molly's singing her self-penned number *Children Of The Universe* - and will hopefully fair a darned sight better than those Brits who've gone before her in the last few years. Here at Zone, our fingers are firmly crossed for the smiley local lass, and we hope yours are too!

What's Hot!

Pride Season is GO!



With over thirty Pride events across the country the Summer Pride season officially starts this month. First off the starters block Exeter Gay Pride which takes place on 10 May. But if that's too far for you to travel then close on it's high-heels is Birmingham Pride in the gay village.

Jodie Foster and her girlfriend get hitched!



Wow! What surprising news! Jodie Foster and her girlfriend of nearly a year, Alexandra Hedison have gotten married.

Jodie split from her partner of twenty years, Cydney Bernard, back in 2008, with whom she co-parents two sons, has obviously found love again. Alexandra, is a professional photographer and actress. She is probably best known for playing Dylan Moreland in the hit lesbian drama series *The L Word*.

We're happy to see yet another high profile same-sex marriage and wish them all the best!

Would you like your wedding to be featured?

Now that we're finally allowed to tie the knot (hurray!), we're on the lookout for couples who'd like to feature in Midlands Zone magazine. Whether it's the planning leading up to the big day or the wedding itself, we'd love to hear from you! We do love a good wedding!

If you're interested in being featured in a future issue of Zone, get in touch with its Editor, Ryan, by emailing ryan@midlandszone.co.uk

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Adam Kennedy

General Manager
Club DV8, Birmingham and
Wharf Bar, Walsall

Born: **Birmingham**
Star sign: **Aries**
Age: **39**

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This month, our focus turns on Adam Kennedy, the General Manager for Birmingham's Club DV8 and Wharf Bar in Walsall

About Adam

Where did you grow up?

Whilst I was born in Northern Ireland, I did most of my growing up in Gran Canaria.

Single or attached?

I'm very much attached.

What makes you happy?

Success and cuddles.

What makes you sad?

Seeing people taking others for granted.

What makes you angry?

The fact that homosexuality is still illegal in 82 countries. I don't get how governments can enforce laws like that.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

During my first night on my own when I managed Fire in London, I had to radio security to take me back to the office because the venue was so big that I couldn't find it!

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I'd probably roll back the years a little and make myself 10 years younger!

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?

Yes, of course.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?

I don't think there was a certain point. I think I've always known.

When did you come out?

I first came out at school, when I was 15 years old.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

Quite bad, really. I was 'out' at school and remember being called to the headmaster's office. He said to me not to let my influence rub off on the other kids. Things like that wouldn't happen these days.

Who was the first person you told, and what was their reaction?

I first told my best friend at school, Gareth. He said he always thought there was something 'funny' about me!

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

I think it's a shame that we have to come to terms with it at all. Sometimes there's too much pressure on kids. These are all things we work out in our own time. As long as you have good friends around you, you'll be fine.

Have you ever slept with a woman?

I pretended to be a girl's boyfriend when I was at school, because she always did my Latin homework for me. One day she got a bit frisky, but luckily it all ended there. So yes - and no!

Your Career

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

For some reason, I always wanted to be the captain of a ship. I think it maybe had something to do with the thought of cruising!

What was your first job?

My first job was in Belfast at a local gay club called Parliament.

You're a manager at Club DV8 in Birmingham and also Wharf Bar in Walsall. What draws you to the bar & club industry?

I think it's mainly the challenge. I like the fact that the industry is always changing. As a result, no two nights are ever the same.

Were you happy to see Club DV8 brought back to life?

Yes, I think Club DV8 was missing from Birmingham's gay scene for too long. I fully believe a city like Birmingham needs more than one gay club.

What are the most rewarding aspects of your job?

The most rewarding parts are creating successful events, making sure everyone has a good time, and making sure it all happens within a safe environment. I'm relishing the next challenge.

What are the pitfalls? Is there anything that really grinds your gears?

It's definitely got to be the paperwork! Also, in recent years, a lot of the fun has been taken out of the job.

If you could run a bar or club anywhere in the world, where would it be?

I'd love to run somewhere in Belfast. Now that things have improved over there and things are more open, it would be good to bring my experience to the gay scene in Northern Ireland.

In previous years, you've been involved with various Pride events across the world. How's that experience been?

It's been an absolutely fantastic one. I've been involved in 14 different Pride events across the world, and was delighted that I was chosen to organise Benidorm's first ever Pride. My main involvement has been with Gran Canaria, though.

Are you excited about Birmingham Pride this month? What are you most looking forward to?

I'm very excited about it, yeah. Myself and the rest of the Club DV8 team have been working on ideas behind the scenes to bring a fantastic line-up to the venue across the weekend. I can guarantee that this year's event is going to be the best yet. I also feel it's a really good opportunity to showcase the city of Birmingham.

Where would you like to see yourself in five years' time?

I also own an entertainments agency called acts2book.com, connecting artists with people interested in having them perform at parties or gigs. Coming off the back of this, I'd like to see myself more involved in the music industry.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene and what's your earliest memory?

I've been visiting and working on the scene for five years now. My earliest memory is how busy it used to be. Nearly every venue had queues around the corner every Saturday night.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

I'm a big fan of Twiggy.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

It's definitely got to be how diverse it is. It's great!



Adam with his favourite cabaret act, Twigggy

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

I honestly don't think I could name just one person. I think that there's a collection of fantastic people who strive to make the scene what it is today.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?

Sadly, I've noticed that it's not as busy as it used to be. I honestly don't know whether this is due to greater acceptance of the LGBT community or if it's simply down to the economy.

How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?

I'd like to see the 'sense of community' brought back, just like it used to be years ago. It just

seems to have been lost in recent times.

Time Out

What do you do to relax?

Relaxation? What's that?!

What do you enjoy on telly?

I really enjoy a fascinating, hard-hitting documentary.

What was the last album or track you bought?

Kylie Minogue's Kiss Me Once.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

Definitely city breaks. After having lived in the sun for seven years, I like to explore big cities across the world.

Where do you like to go on a night out?

I tend to go to other cities for a big night out. I find this broadens my horizons and gives me ideas to bring back home.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

Facebook.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Kristian Nairn from Game Of Thrones, because he's a friend from home.

What's your favourite book?

The Hunger Games series.

Half-empty or half-full?

I'm optimistic, so half-full.

What's your favourite food?

I like things hot, so anything spicy.

And how about your favourite drink?

Tea or vodka!

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Madonna.

Gaydar or Grindr?

Neither for me!

If you could take a selfie with any one person, who would it be?

I'm only just getting used to this whole selfie thing!

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What's On
MAGAZINE GROUP

THE UK'S LARGEST REGIONAL
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PRIDE Tens of thousands gear up for Birmingham Pride, as organisers add Katy B to the line-up

Tens of thousands of people are this month set to descend on Birmingham for the city's annual Pride festival, which takes place on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May in the heart of the Gay Village.

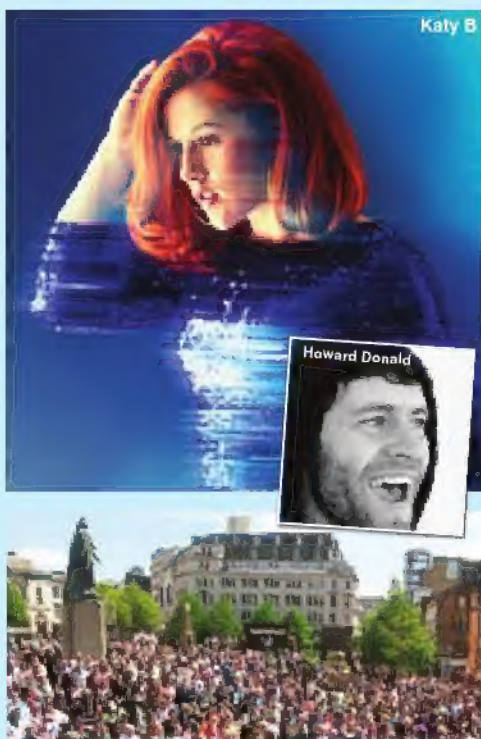
This year's Carnival Parade, which kicks off the event and sets out from Victoria Square at midday on Saturday 24 May, is adopting Equality And Freedom Around The World as its campaigning theme.

"Preparations for Birmingham Pride are now in full swing," said Festival Director Lawrence Barton. "The buzz surrounding the two-day event has been incredible, with people excited about taking part in the Carnival Parade and seeing some big-name acts on our main stage."

Festival organisers have recently announced a few major additions to the line-up for this year's festival, including BRIT-nominated and 5 AM star Katy B, Look Right Through mastermind Storm Queen, and Take That's Howard Donald (in a very special DJ set in the Chic Dance Arena).

Tickets have been selling incredibly well for the event, with organisers seeing a significant uplift in sales - at the time of publication, there had been a 32% increase on the same time last year. Organisers are urging Pride-goers to buy their tickets at the discounted Advance rate while they still can.

Discounted Advance Tickets for the festival, which is located in the Southside area of the city, are available online from www.birminghampride.com at a cost of £10 for a day ticket and £15 for a weekend ticket. Children under 10 get free admission when accompanied by an adult.



MUSIC Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra to present special Pride Proms Concert

The Midlands' very own Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra (BGSO) has announced that it's to present a special Pride Proms Concert on the weekend of Birmingham Pride.

The event, held in conjunction with Birmingham Pride, takes place at Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire, on Saturday 24 May at 7pm, and features proms favourites, well-known anthems and popular tunes.

The concert is hosted by local comedian Barbara Nice and features an orchestra primarily made up of Birmingham and Midlands-based musicians. A specially formed BGSO chorus of singers from the Midlands LGBT community also performs on the night.

Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra are still on the lookout for additional singers to join them for the Pride Proms, so if you fancy making a contribution, email chorus@bgso.co.uk. No experience is necessary, but being able to read music would be an advantage.

Advance tickets for the Pride Proms concert are now available from www.bgso.co.uk for £10 (£8 concessions) or on the door at a price of £12 (£10 concessions). Family tickets are also available.

EDUCATION Brum gay teacher resigns after parents complain

A gay primary school teacher in Birmingham has resigned after parents complained they didn't want him teaching their children.

PinkNews.co.uk reports: "According to the Sunday Times, Andrew Moffat was assistant head at Birmingham's Chilwell Croft Academy, where he designed several pro-LGBT resources, including a pamphlet called Challenging Homophobia In Primary Schools. However, after coming out in an assembly, and teaching a literacy lesson using a book in which a gay family attends a picnic, he was besieged by protests from parents."

"He told the newspaper: 'I did come out at school in an assembly after a group of 11-year-olds held up a poster they made, with the heading 'Gay is good'. It seemed like the right time to let the children know that they knew a

gay person. Following my coming out, some parents from different communities complained to the school, but I maintain that my decision was the right one at that time. Some Christian and some Muslim parents have told me they don't want their children learning that it's okay to be gay."

"After the protests, Moffat resigned from his post at the school, and has since found a teaching post elsewhere."

"A statement from the school said: 'A minority group of parents objected to some of the resource books being used in literacy lessons with some of the oldest children in the school, which explored relationships in different families. The objections were primarily voiced by those whose own religion took an opposing stance to homosexuality.'"



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FILM Special Shrewsbury screening of critically acclaimed gay movie celebrates IDAHO

The Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival has teamed up with Shropshire IDAHO for a special screening of the critically acclaimed film *Sasha*, to mark International Day Against Homophobia In Shrewsbury.

Sasha is about coming to terms with sexuality and coming out, and has been shown to great acclaim at film festivals around the world.

Sasha is a young, handsome musical wunderkind living in Cologne with his immigrant family. He has a crush on his sexy piano teacher, Mr Weber. *Sasha* must grow up fast and come to terms not only with his own true feelings, but also his homophobic family, a 'girlfriend' wanting more than he can give, and his budding sexuality.



The film will be screened at The Hive, Belmont, Shrewsbury, at 8pm on Saturday 17 May. Tickets are now available from www.hiveonline.org.uk or by calling the box office on 01743 234970. They will also be available on the night and are priced at £5 (£4 concessions).

RETAIL Prowler men's boutique to host Pride shopping event



Popular gay men's boutique Prowler is set to host a special shopping event to celebrate this year's Birmingham Pride festival.

Having held a number of similar events in the past, manager Richard Keddle and the team are repeating what everyone seems to love. The shopping event will consist of free drinks served by hunky barman wearing very little, 15% off anything in store (except sale items and tickets), and one or two surprises as well.

The shopping event takes place on Thursday 22 May, from 6pm to 9pm - so pop the date in your diary and pick up a few bits and pieces in preparation for the massive party weekend.

As always, Prowler will have a bunch of sexy guys in the Pride parade, this time sporting the store's latest Andrew Christian swimwear. They'll also be handing out a massive selection of Andrew Christian goodies along the route, so don't miss them!

FAMILY Adoption event targets West Midlands LGBT community



The recent launch of new adopter hubs across the Black Country, Telford and Birmingham has led to a call for more adopters from the West Midlands' LGBT community.

The Adoption In The Black Country, Birmingham And Telford service - a collaboration between four local-authority adoption agencies - is currently seeking adopters for over 300 children, and is hosting an information event on Tuesday 13 May at The Village Hotel in Dudley.

Anyone interested in adopting should pop along to the event, which starts at 6pm, call 0800 073 0597, or visit www.adoptionblackcountry.co.uk for more information.

Andy, 37, who adopted two children through the Adoption In The Black Country, Birmingham And Telford service, said: "As a gay guy, I never thought I would be able to have a family. When I look back on those great summers in the 1970s in Barmouth with my mom, dad, brother and sister, building sand speedboats on the beach, I never once thought I'd be able to do those kinds of things with my own kids. Me and my partner Ben adopted three years ago. It's brilliant to be parents to Jenny and Joel, and it's brilliant to be heading back to Barmouth this summer!"

NATIONAL NEWS

EDUCATION Some UK schools in Section 28-style ban, claim teachers

Several UK schools have stepped back to the 1980s and introduced Section 28-style bans on 'promoting homosexuality', teachers have claimed.

Gay Star News reports: 'At the National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Brighton (22 April), delegates warned at least 46 schools still have policies similar to the anti-gay language of the past.

RELIGION Same-sex marriage an 'almost impossible' issue for some Christians, Archbishop admits

The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken of the struggle to do "what is right and just to all" over the issue of gay marriage within the Church of England.

BBC News reports: 'The Most Reverend Justin Welby told the Daily Telegraph that Christians in some parts of the world find the issue "almost impossible" to deal with. But he accepted the Church had caused "great harm" to gay and lesbian groups.

In the interview, Archbishop Welby said: "We are struggling with the reality that there are different groups around the place that the Church can do - or has done - great harm to."

POLITICS Stonewall receives grant for gay equality project

Stonewall has received £68,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a new project looking back at the campaign for equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people over the last 25 years. The project will focus on the gay equality movement since 1989 and will chronicle and celebrate the accomplishments of key individuals, historic events and legislative changes.

It will also involve a number of activities around the country, volunteering opportunities and an oral history project to celebrate the older lesbian, gay and bisexual community.

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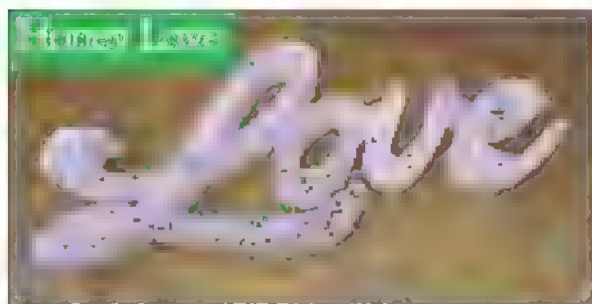
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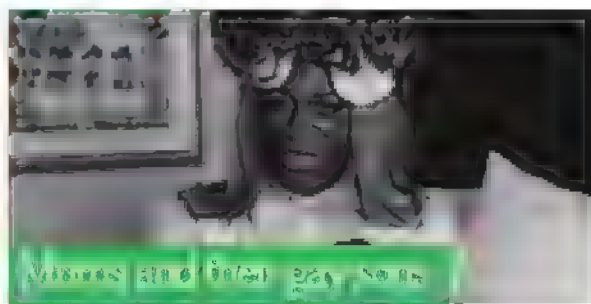
What we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

Ones to watch - the best **videos** on the net...



Following an anti-gay backlash after Honey Maid released an advert featuring a gay couple, the company's marketing team took all of the hateful comments and turned them into 'Love'. This is definitely worth a watch - It'll make you smile. [youtu.be/cBC-pRF19OM](#)



Gay YouTube sensation Davey Wavey is back with yet another hilarious video - this time parodying the often cute, hilarious or stereotypical things that mothers say to their gay sons. A lot of us have been there, so you may relate to this... [youtu.be/2egV1vcvWvo](#)

Tom Daley image made from homophobic tweets

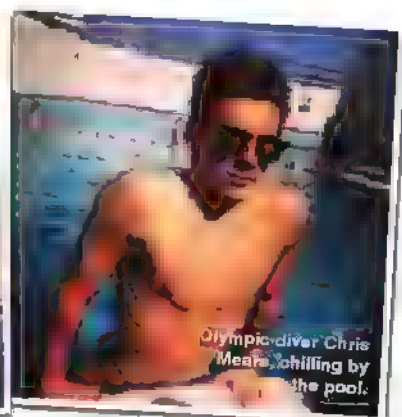
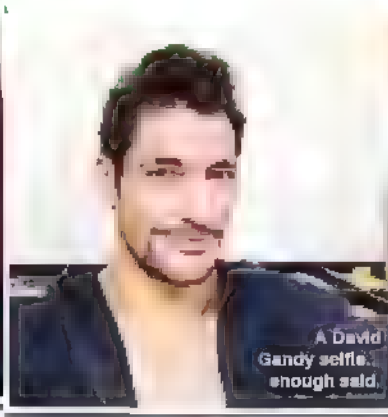
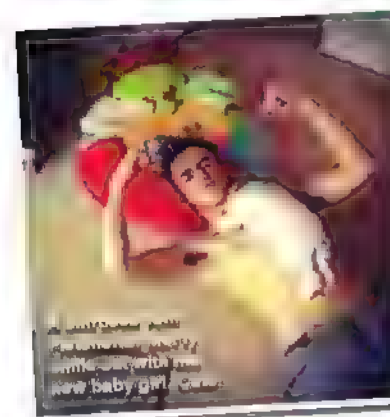


Artist creates portrait using anti-gay tweets

Olympic bronze medal-winning British diver Tom Daley's coming out on YouTube last December certainly stirred up a real hornet's nest, with plenty of homophobes posting hateful comments on social media sites across the Internet. Some of the insults thrown at Tom included,

"We all knew Tom Daley was a dirty fag!" and "Tom Daley is going to hell!". One artist has used these tweets and Facebook statuses to create a portrait of the hunky young superstar. The new artwork shows Tom shirtless in front of a Union Flag. [bit.ly/1rk54Mo](#)

Our favourite **Instagram** snaps...

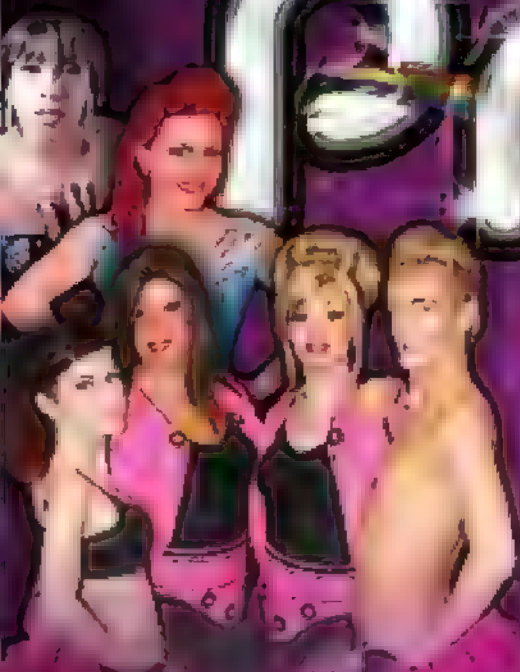


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EUROVISION IS BACK!

But has Molly got what it takes to win it for the UK?

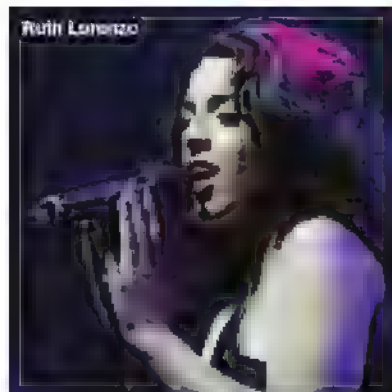
It's May, which can only mean one thing. Yep, that's right, it's time for the best TV programme in the world - the Eurovision Song Contest! Our resident Eurovision correspondent, Dean Asker, takes a look at 2014's entries and picks out his highlights for this year's contest...

Eurovision is brilliant, but it's not been such a great time for we Brits. In 2012, we sent Engelbert Humperdinck, who came second-to-last. In 2013, Bonnie Tyler romped home in... 19th position. On the shame of it. Can we do any better this year? Well, hope springs eternal - and yes, maybe we can

In early January, the Eurovision fan community got itself into a right tizzy guessing who would be the UK's singer. Rumoured names included Geri Halliwell, Jane McDonald and Ryan Clark. And, given that we'd been sending acts who were at the peak of their careers over 30 years ago, people were even suggesting Dame Vera Lynn! When attention turned to Paloma Faith, she took to Twitter to say, "Of course I'm not doing Eurovision. Are you insane?"

In the end, the honour of flying the UK flag has gone to Leicester's re-born Molly Smitten-Downes - or Molly, as she prefers to be known. Who, I hear you say? Yes, this year the BBC, whose job it is to select our entry, has decided to look for fresh names. Using an initiative called BBC Introducing, which aims to find and promote unsigned talent, 26-year-old Molly was approached, and agreed to write a song specifically for the Contest.

So our hopes rest with Children Of The Universe - a mid-tempo, anthemic offering which most fans seem to think is our best song since Jessica Garlick's Come Back in 2002.



But what of the competition Molly will face when she takes to the stage in Copenhagen on 10 May? First to catch the eye is Ruth Lorenzo of X Factor fame, who I, being looking for Spain's first win since 1969 with the dramatic Dancing In The Rain. Other ballads to look out for include Carl Espen's Silent Storm for Norway and Aram MP3's Not Alone for Armenia - which is, inexplicably, the bookies' favourite to win the whole shebang.

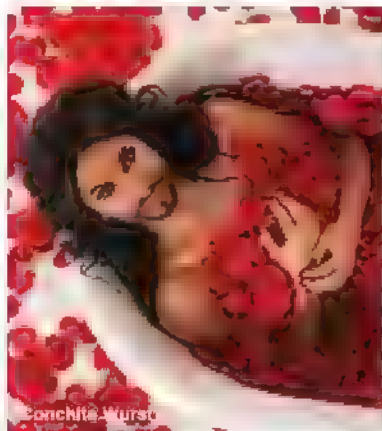
If you like your Eurovision a bit more cheesy, fear not. Belarus has sent a Rob'n Thicke wannabe in the shape of Teo, singing Cheesecake. And continuing the Mary Berry theme, Latvia is inviting us all to Bake A Cake. I kid you not.

There's even more fun from France. Our Gallic

'arms are sending a very catchy song called Moustache, which is, I believe, a satire on materialism. That said, all people will remember is three French blokes singing "I wanna have a moustache" about 50 times. Tres fab.

On a slightly more serious note, a few countries appear to be reacting to events taking place across Europe. Iceland, for example, is sending No Prejudice. Sung by a group of primary schoolteachers in brightly coloured tracksuits, on the surface this may seem like a piece of Euro fluff, but with lyrics like "Let's do away with prejudice, don't discriminate, tolerance is bliss", the song feels like a response to the Russian government's stance on gay rights.

The same might also be true of Austria's



Conchita Wurst, a 'bearded lady' who looks set to ruffle a few feathers with her strong Bond-style entry, Rise Like A Phoenix. The alter-ego of Tom Neuwirth, and with a deliberate Kenny Everett style beard, Conchita is, according to her own website, "a statement for tolerance and acceptance - as it's not about appearances, it's about the human being". Too right. Quite how it will do in the voting will be very interesting.

And what of the Russian entry? Entitled Shine It's performed by former Junior Eurovision Song Contest winners The Tolmachevy Sisters. But I'm not sure I'd want to be in their shoes. Given that the vast majority of those in the hall in Denmark will be gay men who know Europe's watching, it will, again, be fascinating to see how warm, or otherwise, the response is.

But enough of politics. In the end, Eurovision is to be enjoyed. It's the one night of the year when all of Europe lets down its hair. So dust off the Union Jacks, crack open the Bucks Fizz and, above all, have fun. And fingers crossed that we get to hear those elusive words "And finally, the United Kingdom 12 points".

The Eurovision Song Contest Final takes place on Saturday 10 May

Molly says...

How are you feeling about the whole Eurovision experience?

It really has been so positive. I've had an amazing reaction from all my friends and family. I thought they would be more cynical, at least some people, but everyone's been great. Everyone I've met on the road has been so enthusiastic too - so friendly. It's all been a bit of a whirlwind for the past few weeks, really. I've gone from obscurity to this crazy schedule - filming, press tours, video shoots - and all of it in no time at all. It's been very busy, but a lot of fun.

Are you nervous about the size of the audience to which you'll be performing?

Hands down it's the biggest audience I'll ever have performed in front of. I don't think it really gets much bigger as a platform, performing to so many people across a whole continent. The biggest audience I've ever performed to would probably be a festival size - about 25,000 people. So with regard to the arena, I've done bigger, but with regard to the 180 million watching at home, it's almost impossible to get my head round that! I wouldn't say I was nervous just yet - mostly excited. I'm sure the nerves will kick in when I get to Copenhagen, though - just before I perform, as they always do.

How did you come to be involved in Eurovision?


It all came about because of the BBC introducing scheme. I'd submitted my music on there last year. Guy Freeman, the BBC Eurovision producer, sent me an email saying that the Introducing team had suggested me as a possible contender to represent the UK in the 2014 Eurovision Song Contest, which was obviously very flattering.

What's your favourite Eurovision song?

Definitely Euphonia, by Loreen. It's just a wicked tune, really good production, great melody, and her voice is amazing. Her performance on the night was world class. I don't think anyone could deny that. Also, it was a massive crossover chart success. It achieved credibility with people who wouldn't necessarily get involved with Eurovision. In terms of British songs? Well, I remember dancing to Gina G in my bedroom back in the day.

The UK hasn't won Eurovision since 1997. Can you bring the trophy home?

It's so hard to predict anything where Eurovision is concerned! This is a challenge to me, but I'd like to think that if the competition is based on the song and if the people of Europe think my song is the best, then yes, I definitely think we can do well.



"Trying to train myself out of homosexuality would be most odd..."

DERREN BROWN

talks about new show Infamous

Illusionist, mentalist, hypnotist and sceptic, Derren Brown is best known not only for his mindreading act but also for the fact that he openly admits it has nothing whatsoever to do with psychic or paranormal practices. Derren this month returns to the Midlands with latest offering Infamous, which he describes as a 'more stripped-down show'. Midlands Zone recently caught up with the master of psychological illusion to find out what audiences can expect - and whether he really did try and train himself out of being homosexual...

Infamous is a mammoth tour. How do you keep things fresh when you're doing the same thing night after night?

I think that's part and parcel of doing a show. Every time you do it, it should feel like the first time, other than that you're on top of the words because you've spoken them so many times before. If you start out thinking, 'oh, here we go again', which can occasionally creep in, that's when things start to feel like you're on autopilot. Then everybody gets bored with the show, even though they don't quite know why. For me, though, doing the show is a treat. I love having my days free.

What's your starting point when writing a new show?

It starts off with the sense of a mood that you want to create. Aside from the 'tricks' aspect of it, you're writing a show that's a night of theatre. That means your first thought tends to be about creating moments or images or things that are really going to stick with people. My first call is always, here are two thousand people locked in a room with me, what would be an amazing thing to have happen to them? I read people's tweets, which often say, "OMG! I'm going to see Derren Brown. He's going to fuck with my mind!". Twitter is a useful way of reminding myself what people's expectations are, so that I can make sure that I meet them. So you start out with a bunch of feelings and moods and things that you want to supply. The aim is to give people something they couldn't get anywhere else - things they couldn't get with a magic show, couldn't get with a play. After that comes the tricks, and after that comes how you set about making things happen. That's the last consideration, really.

There must be pressure to keep upping your game. How much further can you take your craft?

I don't think it's about upping the game. You'd begin to go mad if you saw it in terms of it's got to be bigger and better. You'd end up breaking away from the things that root it in being intelligent and having an important subtext to it. With TV a couple of years ago, I did the Apocalypse show, which was this huge and ambitious project. Then, after that, I did a show that was much quieter, based around a painting getting stolen from a gallery by a bunch of OAPs. Infamous is a much more stripped-down show. I don't see it being about topping my last effort, but you do have to make sure that the show delivers every time. And that certainly gets more difficult to achieve, because you sometimes feel you've been there before with the ideas you have.

Would you credit yourself with taking magic to a new level?

I wouldn't necessarily say that, but what I've done, just from my own point of view, is to grow out of the desire to impress people with tricks. I think if you're an insecure kid or teenager - or student, as I was - you want to impress people, and tricks are a very nice, easy way of doing so. By the time I'd grown out of that, I'd had some TV success, so it felt mad to leave it behind and do something more grown up. What I did do, though, was find a

way of doing it which would still continue to be interesting for me. I wasn't interested in just going, 'Hey, look at me. Look at this amazing thing I can do!'. So although the stage shows are still a bit more rooted in that, TV has gone down a different route and the focus isn't really on me anymore. Now it's on members of the public doing something extraordinary. Also, what's interesting about that is that you've suddenly got drama, whereas being a magician or reading someone's mind isn't necessarily great drama. Classically, a magician clicks his fingers and something happens. That's like a 'whimsical god' thing and there's nothing dramatic in it. So if I've taken it to another place, it's nothing other than that. As for the stage shows, I'm doing a new show every two years. I don't think any other stage magician has ever done that, so in a sense maybe that's new too.

Is it easier to deliver your craft live to a theatre audience, or in front of a TV camera?

It's different in some ways - and you see it a lot with other magicians on TV - it's easy to make a TV magic show look amazing, because you can edit it in any way you want. You can cheat in any way you want. There are all sorts of things that are at your disposal, and one TV production company may have a different set of ethical rules to another. I think the trouble with TV is it's too easy to fake it - and if you're not faking it, people don't know that you're not. It's difficult to judge, whereas on stage you really see every moment of it - especially with people being chosen at random from the audience, which is how I do it. You may get involved with someone, and if things don't quite work out, you're going to see that happen. You're going to see every moment of the process. You haven't got that little border around it which you have with TV, where the edges are cut off in terms of what you're seeing. As a TV audience, you only see what the camera is pointing at. I think with live shows there's a fairness to it. I also think the point of magic is to generate that feeling of wonder and amazement, and I don't get that when I'm watching magic on TV anymore.

With a live show, how do you assess the right candidate for a particular stunt?

My starting point has to be that people are chosen at random, therefore I work the show around that. I don't do things in the show that will only work with a very particular type of person. There are times when I can do something over the whole audience and then pick someone I want to use - though that can only be done very sparingly, otherwise people would think it was stooged. It's partly that, partly the writing of the show and the ideas that I come up with. Most of the things I do will work with about ninety percent of the audience. Occasionally I'll get someone up on the stage and realise it's not going to work, so I apologise and send them back. Then there are the obvious tricks that I know will only work on a few people, so by that point I've earned the licence to go and pick somebody out of the audience myself.

As viewers, we often perceive people's lives as being put at risk with some of your

stunts, like with the Russian Roulette stunt. Is there always an element of risk?

There can be, inasmuch as things might not work out quite the way you planned, but you'd never put people at risk of harm. There's an enormous duty of care towards people who're taking part in the show. With Apocalypse, we had someone going through a traumatic experience, believing the world was going to end. It did, and they woke up to find their family had gone and there were zombies everywhere. Something like that has to be plotted very carefully. The choice of person has to be made very carefully, and their ongoing experiences have to be presented in a way that's passed as acceptable by psychiatrists and psychologists, to make sure the balance is always kept right. There are all sorts of physical things that can be put into place to make sure they can't do certain things that might cause harm. There's a huge amount of behind-the-scenes stuff, and sometimes, to preserve a sense of drama, you don't spell out all of those things. People have said 'what if he'd picked up a big stick and whacked one of the zombies, what would have happened then?' It doesn't make sense. It must all be fake. What they don't know is that we will have picked up every possible weapon from the site. There are lots of things to consider, but it's a taken care of.

Have you ever been hypnotised?

I'm a classically bad subject. I think people who're emotionally very open tend to be good subjects. And I'm not. I did have one experience at a hypnotic workshop where I found myself out of it. As far as I was concerned, I was on a beach. I could feel the sand, I could hear the waves - but then it finished, I snapped out of it and that was that.

Is it true that you tried to train yourself out of homosexuality?

No, that's a weird made-up thing. What I did do when I was a student was go to a one-day event driven by a Christian group who came to 'cure' homosexuals. Obviously they don't, but at the time I felt it wouldn't be a bad thing. I could press a button and it would all change. I was up for that. Looking back, it was a nonsense. It's not even like they achieve the results and that's even before you consider whether those results would be desirable or admirable. I've since come out of Christianity, but that was a bit more in line with the sort of stuff I was learning - a process of understanding the mind a bit better that took me out of the faith. So whether those two things have been merged into a weird story, I don't know. Trying to train myself out of homosexuality would be most odd.

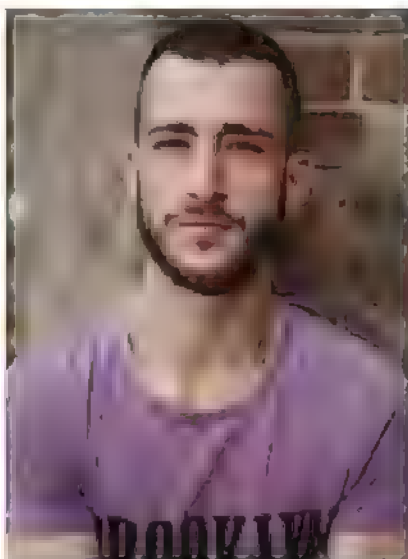
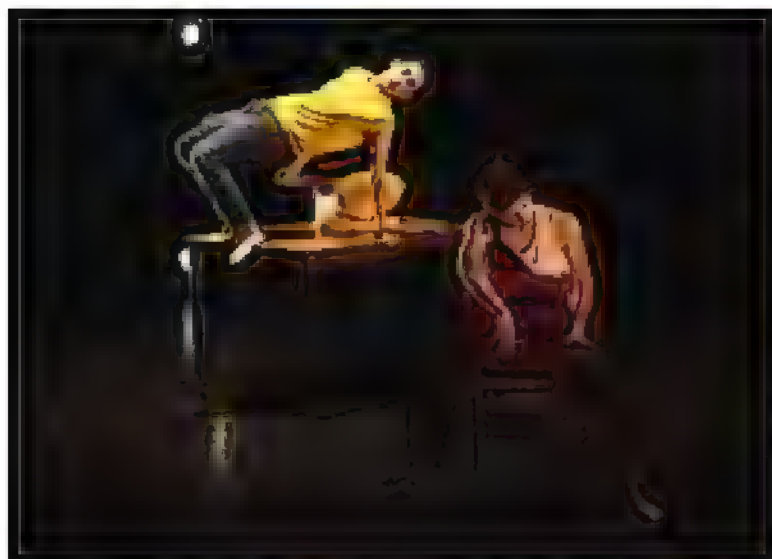
You mentioned you're writing a book at the moment. What's it about?

It's about happiness, but I'm still in the process of writing the first draft at the moment. I'm writing it during the day while I'm out on tour. I anticipate it'll be out some time next year.



Boys don't dance...

Carlos Pons Guerra talks about Young Man!, a dance piece he's bringing to Birmingham Pride



Choreographer Carlos Pons Guerra hails from Gran Canaria and was told by his parents that 'boys don't dance'. He ignored them, and is this month presenting his new work, *Young Man!*, at Birmingham Pride, as part of the International Dance Festival Birmingham. Midlands Zone caught up with him to find out more...

Young Man! is a tale of harm and passion. A bold and meaty duet, it's spiked with memories of favourite Pedro Almodóvar films. It's also inspired, in part at least, by Jean Cocteau's timeless ballet for *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort*. And by the drawings of Tom of Finland and by Jean Genet's *Un Chant d'amour*. Coarse and greasy, like the skin of an Iberian ham, this lustful and kitschy duet of seduction boasts a passionate soundtrack of vintage Spanish classics.

Carlos Pons' *Young Man!* is a creature of desperation that can be found in many of us.

You've always been a very keen dancer, how did you first get started?

It's the same story as many other dancers, really. I was dragged along to my sister's lessons. It was back in Gran Canaria, and I was about three years old. I was never allowed to take part in the lessons, but I remember playing with the castanets. I used to watch the shows and I was really into it. I remember asking if I could take part in ballet, but was told that dance wasn't for boys and that boys should be playing football. It wasn't until I was 15 or 16, when I'd saved some money, that I went to lessons by myself. I always kept it a secret.

You managed to sneak into ballet school in Leeds. Were you excited to be doing something you loved without your parents holding you back?

It was a bit stupid, really. I was looking to come

and study in the UK, and the School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds kept coming up. I looked at the website and thought that if I got in, my parents would never know. So I made a video dancing with my ballet teacher. I was offered a place at Kent to study English, but I changed my mind after hearing about the dance school in Leeds. When my parents asked why I'd changed my mind, I told them I had a piano scholarship there. Eventually, my parents found out, because they received a letter saying I'd been injured during lessons. It was procedure, especially as I was only 17, to let them know. It was very exciting to finally be able to dance without being held back, despite my parents not talking to me for a while after they found out.

Did you struggle with growing up as a gay man?

I grew up in Gran Canaria as a gay man in a macho society. Although Gran Canaria is now quite the gay hotspot, there was quite a lot of homophobia in evidence when I was younger. There was this thing where somebody's manliness was based on how homophobic and racist they were. It was horrible.

Talk about the inspiration for your work...

A lot of it has to do with Spain. I use a lot of Spanish characters in my work. For example, my second piece has the Virgin Mary in drag and takes place in Spain during the 1950s. When I came over to the UK, I thought it would be very liberated and everyone would be out of

the closet. There were a lot of male dancers who were gay and not accepted, who remained in the closet, so that kind of inspired me for *Young Man!* too.

Professionals in the dance industry have advised you to stay away from queer work. Why do you think that is?

I think it's because I'm a young choreographer and, as a gay man, they didn't want me to pigeonhole myself. Not all audiences like to see gay-themed work, which is why I think it's great for the International Dance Festival to put this show on in the open air for all to enjoy.

Your work is being shown at this month's Birmingham Pride festival. Are you excited about displaying it at one of the gayest weekends of the year?

I'm very excited! I was here for Pride last year and I thought it was amazing. The atmosphere was fantastic and the programme of events, on the parade, was just brilliant. We're going to be showing *Young Man!* twice on the Community Village Green. They're free performances, so I hope everyone will come along to enjoy it.

Young Man! takes place as part of the International Dance Festival Birmingham on the Community Village Green at Birmingham Pride on Saturday 24 May.

THE BIGGEST DANCE WITH A DIFFERENCE

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GUIDE

birmingham pride

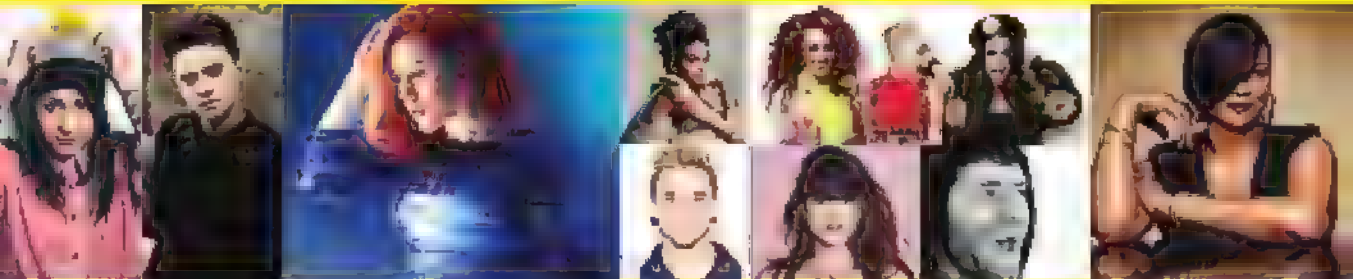
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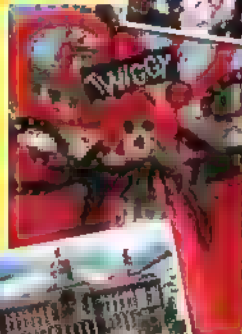
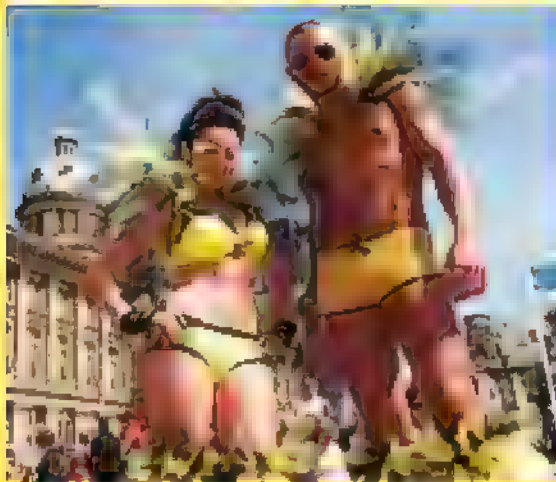
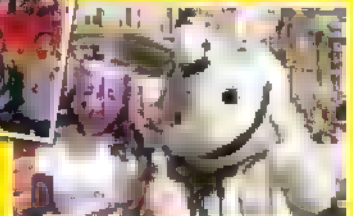
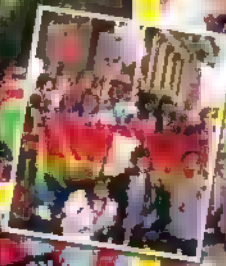
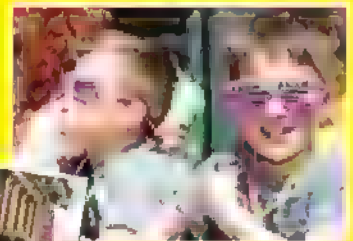
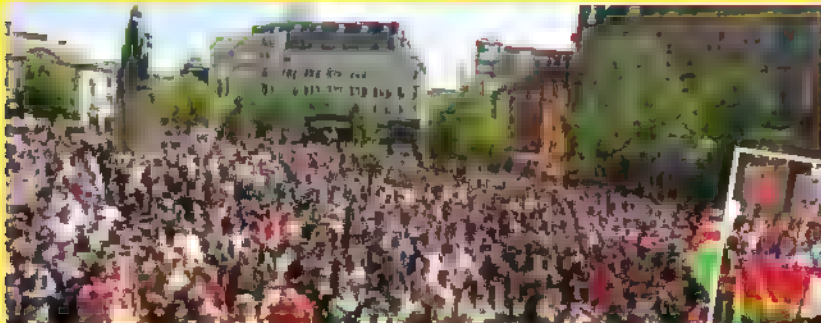
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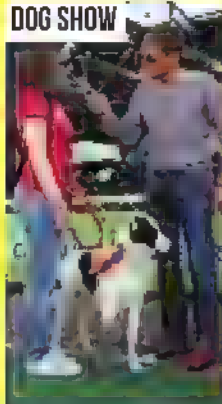
SATURDAY 24 & SUNDAY 25 MAY

COMMUNITY VILLAGE GREEN - AT THE HEART OF PRIDE!

COMMUNITY VILLAGE GREEN



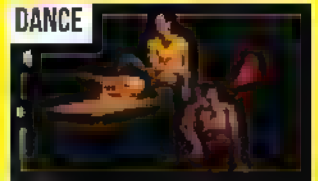
DOG SHOW



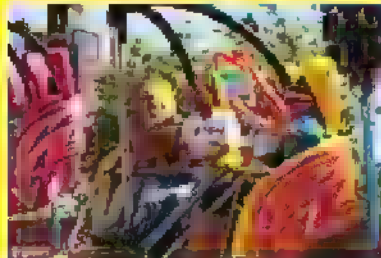
VILLAGE GAMES



DANCE

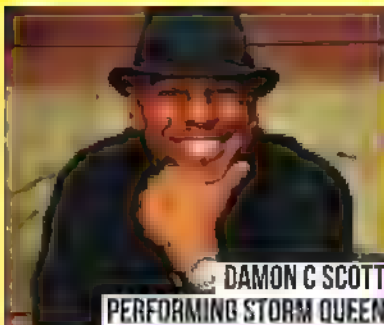


A THRILL-PACKED FUNFAIR...

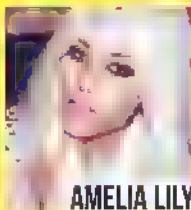


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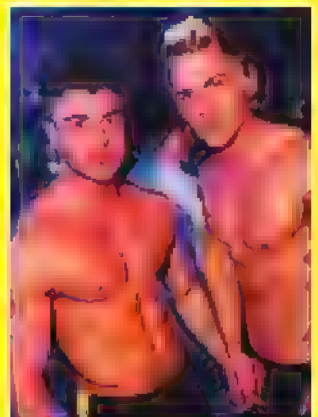
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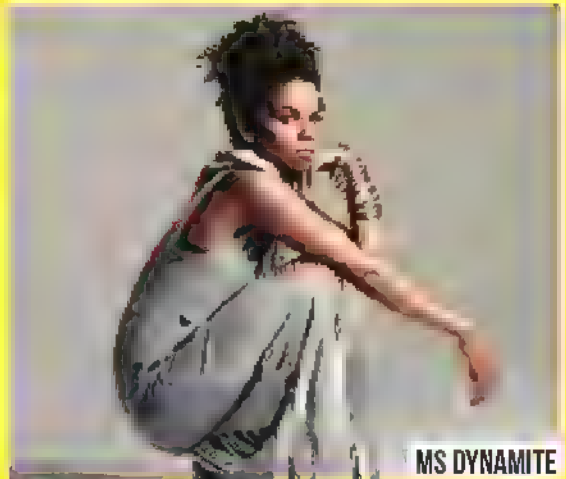


THE MAIN STAGE - A PRIDE-TASTIC

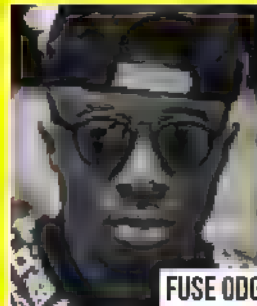
SATURDAY 24 MAY



GABRIELLE



MS DYNAMITE



FUSE ODG



DAMON C SCOTT
PERFORMING STORM QUEEN

GABRIELLE

MS DYNAMITE

FUSE ODG

STOOSHE

S CLUB 4

DAMON C SCOTT
PERFORMING STORM QUEEN

TICH

JOSEPH WHELAN

VANQUISH

ROMAN LEVIN

GTF

RDC DANCE

FAYE BAGLEY



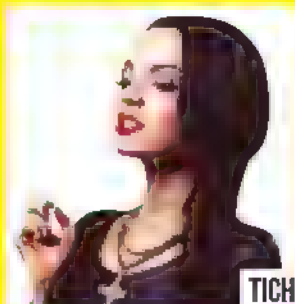
STOOSHE



S CLUB



JOSEPH WHELAN



TICH



VANQUISH



WEEKEND LINE-UP

SUNDAY 25 MAY



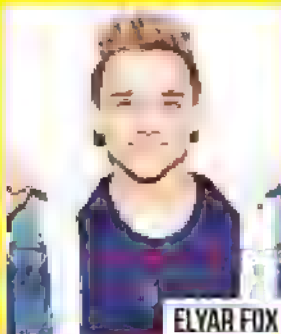
CONOR MAYNARD



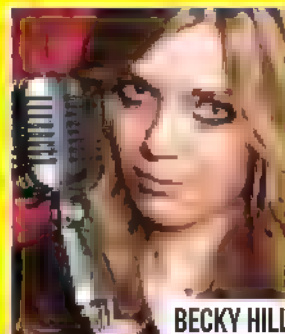
KATY B



FOXES



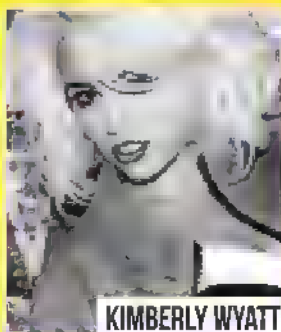
ELYAR FOX



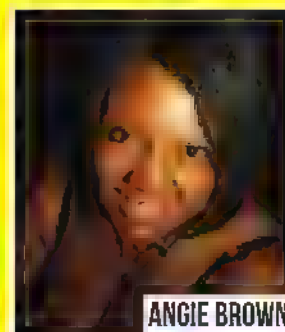
BECKY HILL



LUCY SPRAGGAN



KIMBERLY WYATT



ANGIE BROWN

**CONOR
MAYNARD**
KATY B
FOXES
KIMBERLY WYATT
ELYAR FOX
BECKY HILL
LUCY SPRAGGAN

ANGIE BROWN
HARRY MONDRYK
REWIND

TIGER HEART
STACEY JACKSON
CAROL ANTHONY
KELLY WILDE
JAZZ BLACK

THE MAIN STAGE IS
SPONSORED BY:

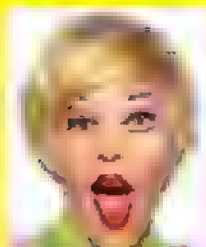


High Life

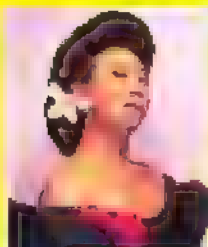


SATURDAY 24 & SUNDAY 25 MAY

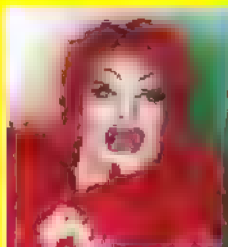
CABARET MARQUEE



CASSIDY CONNORS



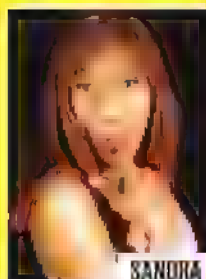
LADY IMELDA



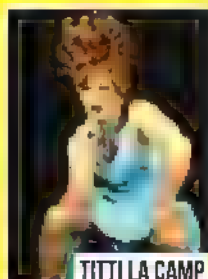
DIVINE MISS M



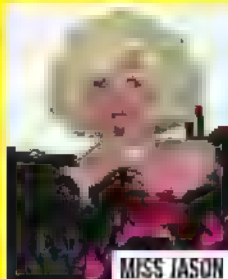
GLITTER LIPS



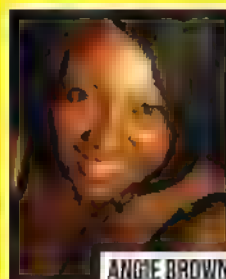
SANDRA



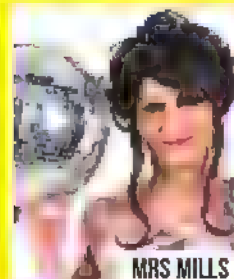
TITTI LA CAMP



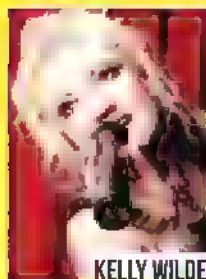
MISS JASON



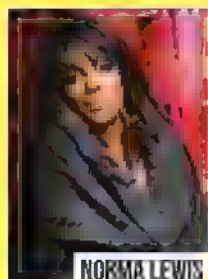
ANGIE BROWN



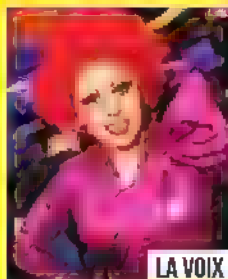
MRS MILLS



KELLY WILDE



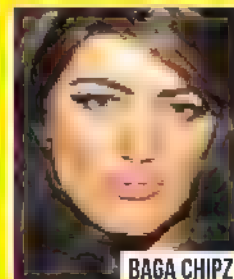
NORMA LEWIS



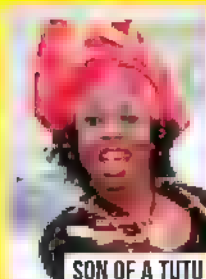
LA VOIX



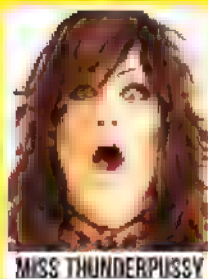
TWIGGY



BAGA CHIPZ



SON OF A TUTU



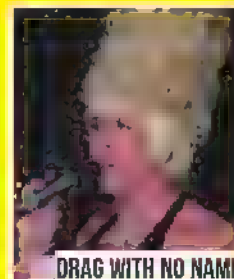
MISS THUNDERPUSSY



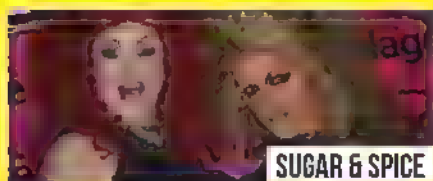
TOPPING & BUTCH



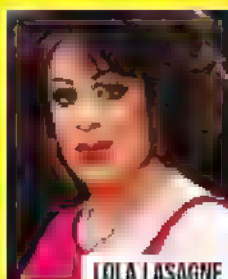
VICKY JACKSON AS PINK



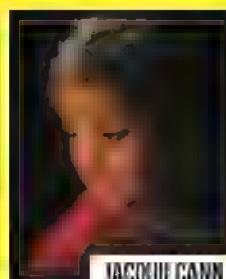
DRAG WITH NO NAME



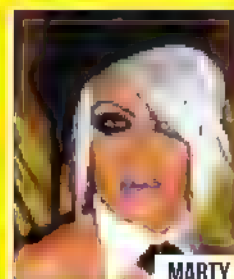
SUGAR & SPICE



LOLA LASAGNE



JACQUI CANN



MARTY

THE CABARET MARQUEE
IS SPONSORED BY:

The
Village
Inn

HGL CLINIC

TAKE A TEST AT PRIDE

A SIMPLE FINGER PRICK
IS ALL YOU NEED FOR US
TO TEST YOU FOR:

Testing in the HGL marquee
on Bromsgrove Street
(next door to the Loft Lounge)
over the Pride weekend

**HEPATITIS B
HEPATITIS C
HIV**

Results in **two weeks**

No appointment necessary
Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6pm

HGL
HEALTHY GAY LIFE

NHS

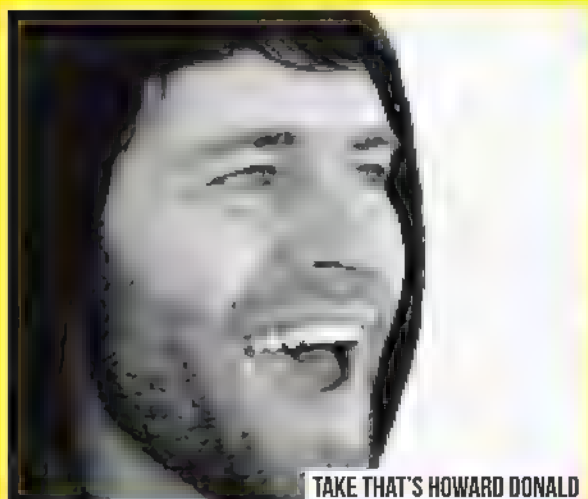
CALL **0121 440 6161**
FOR FURTHER DETAILS BEFORE THE EVENT

OR CALL **0121 622 6252**
WHILST YOU'RE AT BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

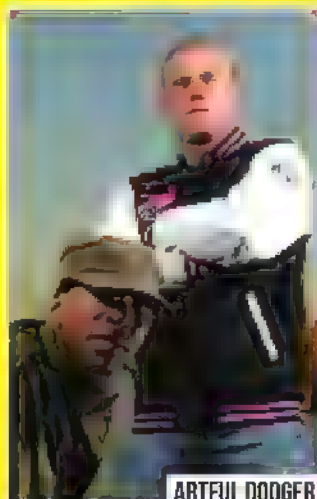


SATURDAY 24 & SUNDAY 25 MAY

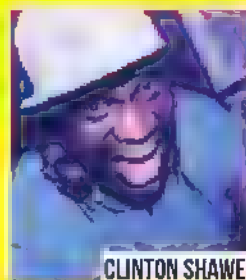
CHIC DANCE ARENA



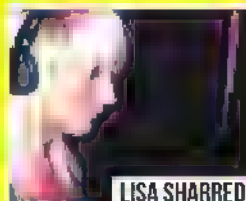
TAKE THAT'S HOWARD DONALD



ARTFUL DODGER



CLINTON SHAWE



LISA SHARRED

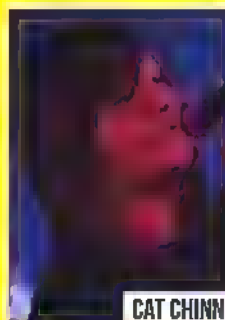


DONKIE PUNCH

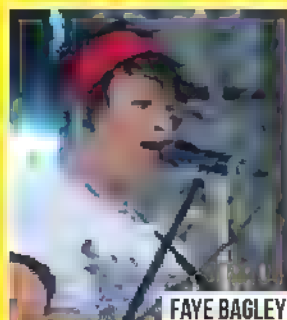
PLUS TINY DEE, MITCH P,
PHUNKY SMALLS, PHIL J,
SANDI G, ABEYANCE,
FELTON, CHRIS SPARROW
AND MANY MORE...

THE DANCE ARENA IS SPONSORED BY: *Chic* FOR THE FULL DANCE ARENA LINE-UP VISIT WWW.BIRMINGHAMPRIDE.COM

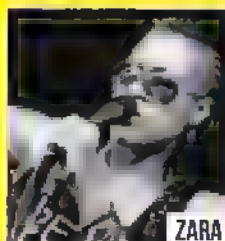
WOMEN'S ARENA



CAT CHINN



FAYE BAGLEY



ZARA

PLUS CRIMINAL MIND, HANNAH
BROWN, LADY BURLESQUE,
ELLE, KILL GLASS AND MANY
MORE...

THE WOMEN'S
ARENA IS
SPONSORED BY:



*Birmingham Gay
Symphony Orchestra
Presents:*

in association with



**Saturday
24th May 2014**
7pm
(doors 6.30pm)

Pride Proms Concert 2014

at the
Worshipful

Pomp & Circumstance March no. 1 // Elgar
Carmen Suites // Bizet
Jerusalem // Parry
Sea Songs // Henry Wood
The Big Country // Moross
Hallelujah Chorus // Handel
Zadok the Priest // Handel

Tickets in advance: £10 (£8)
On the door if available: £12 (£10)
"Family" ticket available

Available from players & online
Booking fees may apply
www.bgso.org.uk

**Adrian Boult Hall
Birmingham Conservatoire
Fletcher's Walk (just off Centenary Sq.)**



Conductor: Jack Lovell
Compere: Barbara Nice



SATURDAY 24 & SUNDAY 25 MAY

SAVE £££s
GET YOUR **TICKETS** NOW!



THE CARNIVAL PARADE IS A FREE EVENT
ON SATURDAY 24 MAY!
12 NOON FROM VICTORIA SQUARE

ON THE DAY: £15 ON THE DAY: £20 ON THE DAY: £45

You will need to purchase a **TICKET/WRISTBAND** to enter the Birmingham Pride festival.

Seniors (65+) who are looking to enjoy the Birmingham Pride weekend can get 'Discounted Advance Weekend Tickets' for just £7.50, only available when booked in advance.

AVAILABLE NOW FROM: MOST GAY BARS AND CLUBS OR BY VISITING WWW.BIRMINGHAMPRIDE.COM

PRIDE SITE MAP

PLEASE NOTE:
NO GLASS,
NO ALCOHOL
NO FOOD
DO NOT WALK
INTO THE PRIDE
SITE

FOR THE MOST
UP-TO-DATE
INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.BIRMINGHAMPRIDE.COM



**Birmingham
Pride**

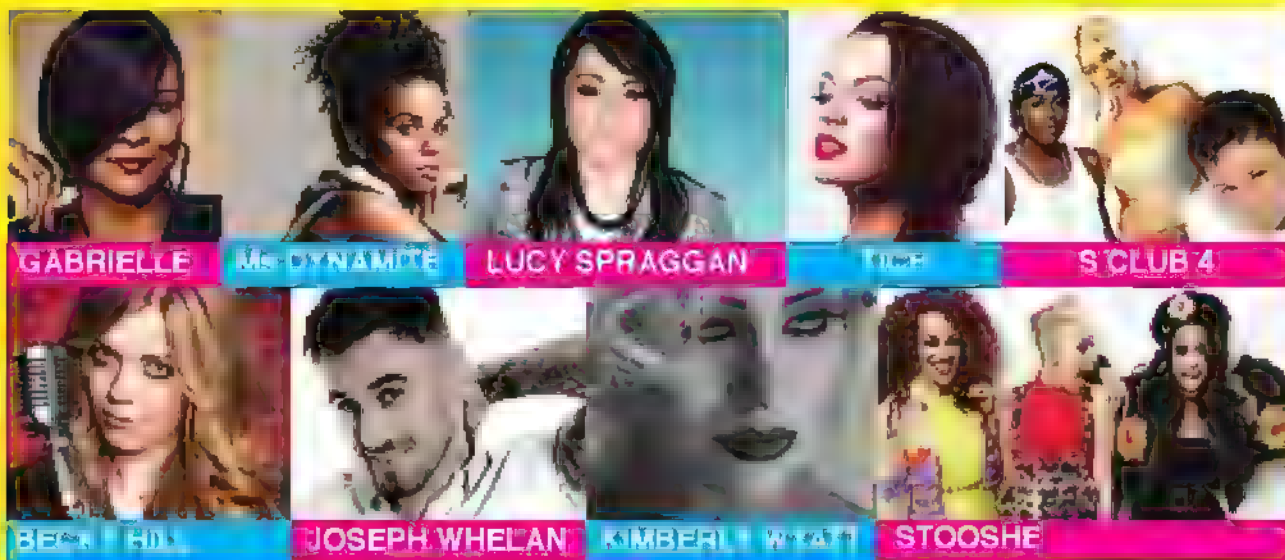
is a
NOT-FOR-PROFIT
organisation and
helps raise
money for local
LGBT / HIV &
AIDS charities



**TREAT
YOURSELF
AND GO
VIP!**

SPECIAL WEEKEND VIP TICKET WITH MEET AND GREET

GET THE CHANCE OF A PHOTO 'MEET & GREET' WITH THE FOLLOWING ARTISTS:



PLUS ANGIE BROWN, REWIND, and VANQUISH
(Plus more VIP meet and greet artists to be announced)

VIP WEEKEND TICKETHOLDERS GET THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- Fast Track entry into the site
- VIP priority bar areas - Cabaret Marquee / Main Stage.
- Exclusive VIP Bar at The Penthouse
- VIP main stage enclosure
- Harvey Nichols Health & Beauty Treatments
- Opportunity to meet and greet with some of the artists during the day

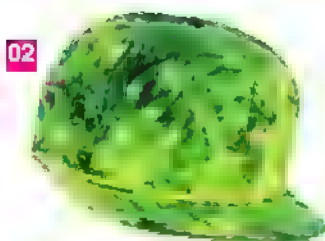
Please note that these VIP photo meet & greets can never ever be guaranteed

Discounted Advance VIP Weekend Tickets can only be purchased online: £35 (+ booking fee)
VIP Weekend Tickets may be available at the festival at £45

THE UK'S BIGGEST 2 DAY GAY FESTIVAL



01



02

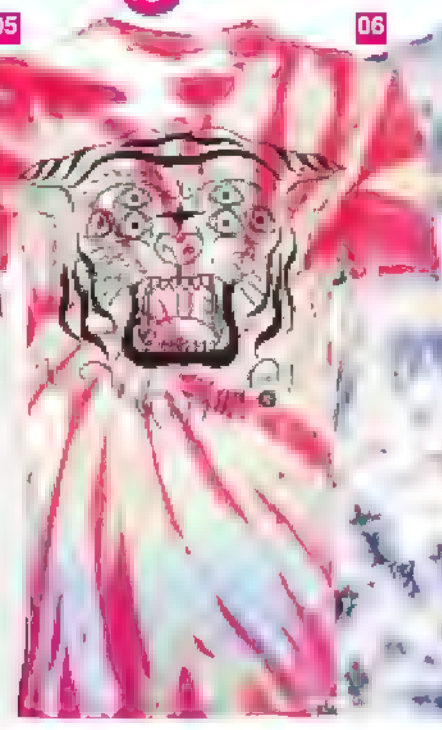


03

Tie Dye For!



04



05



06

Everybody loves a bit of colour in their wardrobe - so why not opt for some old school tie dye? We've scoured the high street stores and online - and here are six of our favourite pieces, perfect for the summer...

01 HYPE. Tie Dye Socks

The king of tie dye 'HYPE' present a pair of amazing socks made with its unique spiral tie dye technique. No pair will ever be the same again, as they're all individually created.

£9.99

hypeclothinguk.bigcartel.com

02 Agora Tie Dye Snapback

Set yourself apart from the crowd with this Agora Vintage Acid Wash Tie Dye Fresh Prince Snapback Hat! With its

eye-popping green hue, this snapback will be a conversation-starter for sure!



www.agoravintage.com

03 Converse All-Star Hi Dozer Blue Tie Dye

Converse, renowned for their hi-top canvas trainers, have become true wardrobe staples. So grab yourself a pair of these tie dyed masterpieces and kick back in style.

£54.99

www.office.co.uk

04 White Tie Dye Raver T-Shirt

Essential for the summer clubbing season, this multi-coloured tie dye 'raver' print tee is a quirky talking point for laidback party looks.

£16

www.rivensland.com

05 Abandon Ship Tie Dye Tiger T-Shirt

Abandon Ship has quickly got a name for itself thanks to clean, eye-catching designs and a carefree lifestyle brand

image. This unique Tiger print tie dye tee comes in a regular chest fit.

£25

www.topman.com

06 Blue Bellfield Tie Dye 'On A High' T-Shirt

Give your casual wardrobe a boho twist with this blue Bellfield tie dye 'on a high' print t-shirt. Featuring a crew neck and short sleeves.

£18

www.rivensland.com

GREGG
FEMME

OUTRAGEOUS
UNDERWEAR

48 STYLES
EXCLUSIVELY
AVAILABLE FROM
CLONEZONE



GZ
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www.clonezone.co.uk

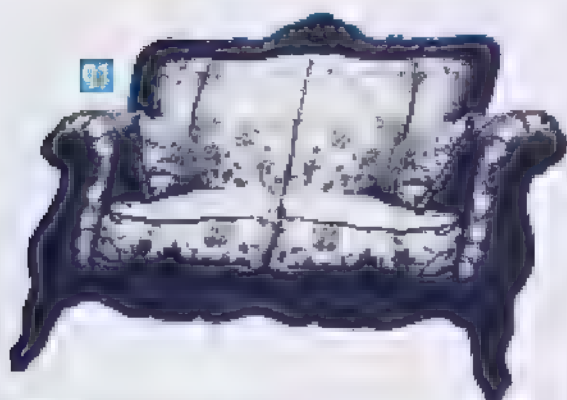
Manchester - 38 - 38 Sackville Street, M1 3WA

Birmingham - 84 Hurst Street, B5 4TD

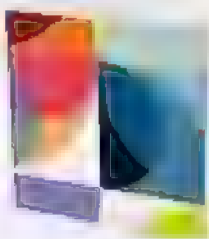
SoHo - 35 Old Compton Street, London W1D 5JX

Earls Court - 286 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9HR

Art ATTACK



Check out our selection of furniture and accessories...



Canvas Sofa and Chair by YOY

Canvas sofa/chair created by Yoy a Tokyo-based design duo, is part-artwork, part-chair. It boasts a spectacular two-dimensional design made from a large-but lightweight aluminium and reinforced wooden frame covered in several specialised elastic layers with a print of a sofa on the front and a hidden support beam inside. When friends and guests arrive, prop it against the wall, and sit into it

as a sofa, actually sitting 'in' the canvas. When not in use it can be hung on the wall as art.

Sofa £1,080 Chair £790
www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

Snap, Crackle and Pop Cushions

These bright Pop Art-style cushions will add a little pizzazz to a bedroom or reading area.

£30 each
www.aspace.co.uk

Nextime Time Lines Clock

Give your home that minimalist design with bright colour accents. Feel with the help of this modern-art Mondrian glass wall clock. The Nextime Time Lines Clock is a visual feast for all who gaze upon it. Perfect for bathrooms, kitchens, hallways and offices this stunning glass clock acts as both a timepiece and wall art.

£45
www.aspace.co.uk

Cube Light Dreamy

Look at this pretty cube-shaped table light from German studio REMEMBER. These designers did it again, using their superb creativity to fashion this funky and stylish light. It's really an art object, and we guarantee it will impress your visitors. It can either be used as a table lamp or hung on the wall.

www.jasmineway.co.uk

Beau Deco Console

A work of art crafted from a cohesive combination of a chic black marble tabletop and a glossy stainless steel structure. Channelling a subtle Art Deco geometry, the design reflects all the opulence and glamour of the early 20th century.

£950
www.LuxDeco.com

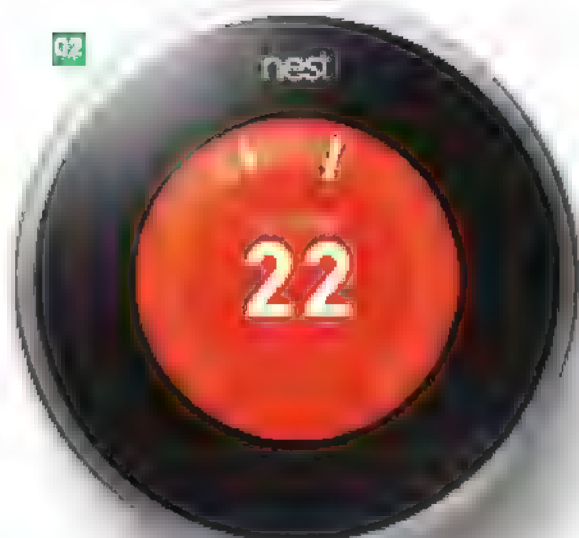
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TIME TO REVEAL
#SUKREW



SUKREW.COM

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C2
clothing



GADGETY GOODNESS



HTC One (M8)

The all-new HTC One (M8) is the latest contender in the smartphone race, featuring a duo camera depth sensor for quicker focusing and clearer pictures. There's also a bright five-inch touchscreen enclosed in a 90% metal body with built-in amplifiers and dual front-facing speakers. The M8 also uses the latest version of the brilliant Android operating system 4.4 Kit Kat.

From FREE
www.o2.co.uk

Nest Learning Thermostat

The Nest Thermostat learns your schedule to programme itself, notices when you're gone and automatically turns down the heat, and can be controlled from your mobile. You'll see how much heat you use every day and get an energy report every month to track and manage your energy use.

£179
www.johnlewis.com

Thermodo

The Thermodo is a tiny electrical thermometer for your mobile device that lets you measure the temperature right where you are. Dark as the night, the Black Thermodo is a stealthy little thing. Goes perfectly with black devices. Crafted from aluminium. With a midnight automotive grade paint job and a hand-stamped logo.

£35
www.thermodo.com

Moto 360

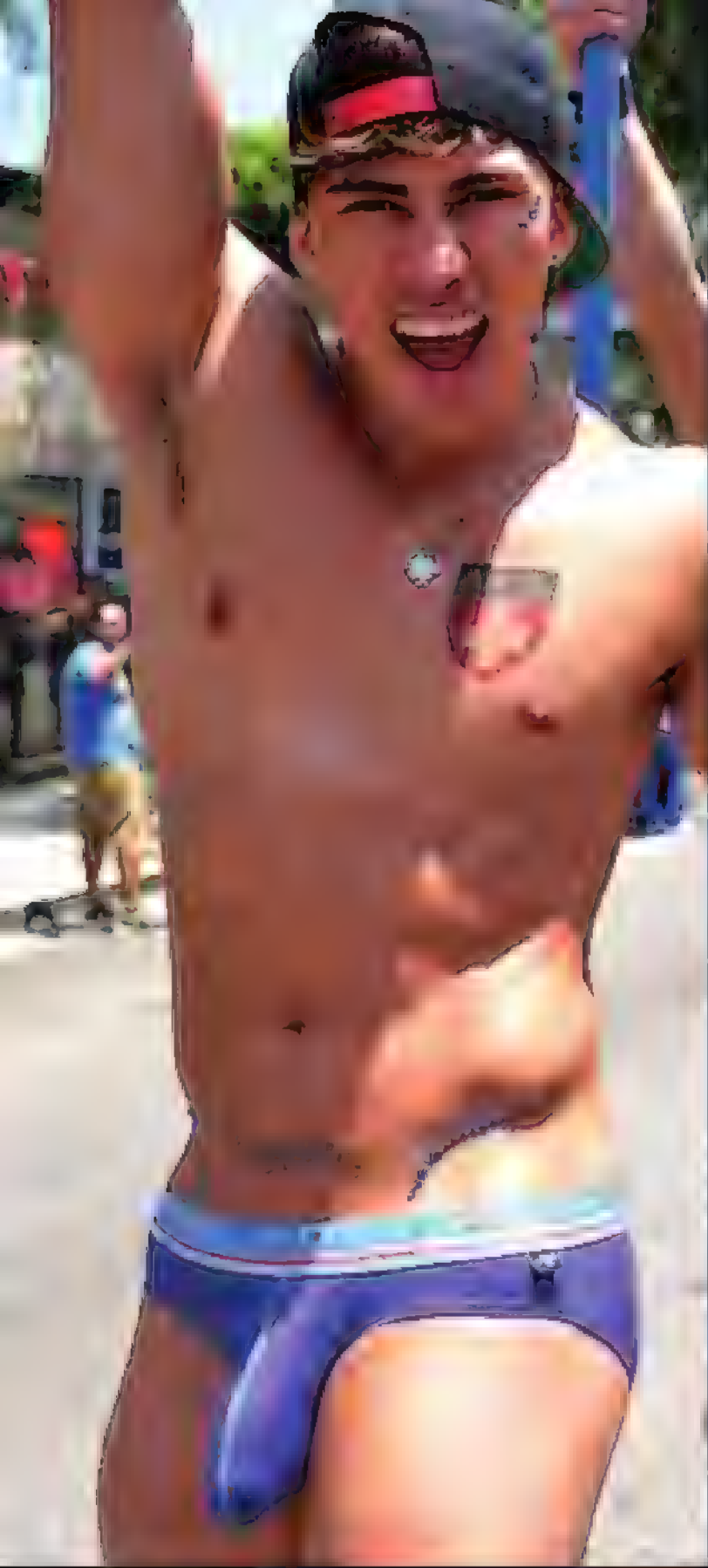
Set for a summer release, the Moto 360 is Motorola's stab at the wearable tech industry. A stunningly crafted smart watch, the 360 is powered by Google's new Android Wear operating system and is set to display notifications directly from your mobile device. Best of all? It still looks like a watch.

£130
moto360.motorola.com

Sony Xperia Z2

The 4G-equipped Sony Xperia Z2 is Sony's latest smartphone offering, featuring a staggering 20.7 megapixel camera with 4K Ultra HD video recording capabilities. It features Sony's Bravia technology for its display and Walkman sound for tunes on the go. If you're accident-prone, don't worry – the Xperia Z2 features a premium, water-proof design.

From £19.99
www.o2.co.uk



PROWLER

HAPPY PRIDE!

SHOPPING NIGHT

22ND MAY

(SEE EDITORIAL FOR INFO)

SPURS

R18 OFFER £7.99*

ENGLISH AROMAS

£4 EACH OR 3 FOR £10*

**15% OFF ALL
ANDREW CHRISTIAN
JOCKS!***

DOUBLE REWARD

**STAMPS ON ALL
R18 FILMS***

*SEE EDITORIAL FOR INFO
ON R18 FILMS
©2015 ANDREW CHRISTIAN

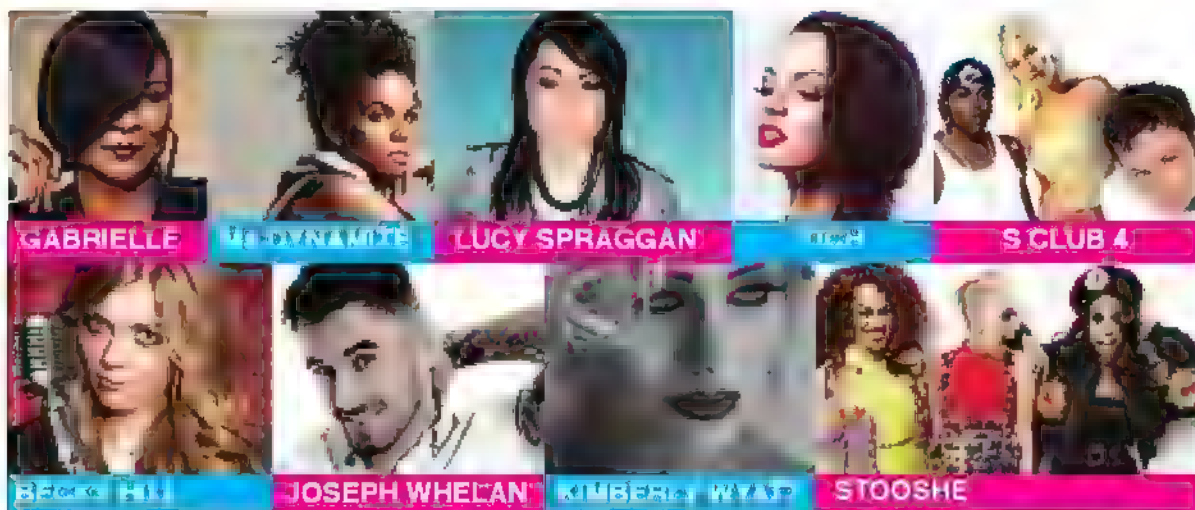


BIRMINGHAM 29-30 Seagraves Street Birmingham, B2 4BH 0121 666 6370



WIN!

WIN! A pair of VIP Meet & Greet Tickets for Birmingham Pride 2014!



PLUS ANGIE BROWN, REWIND, and VANQUISH
(Plus more VIP meet and greet artists to be announced)

TO ENTER!

Simply LIKE or SHARE the post on FACEBOOK: [fb.com/birminghampride](https://www.facebook.com/birminghampride) OR [fb.com/midlandszone.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk)
FOLLOW US & RETWEET ON TWITTER: @birminghampride OR @midlandszone

Entries close on Monday 19 May 2014

WIN! One of two American Bombshell toys!



If 'average' just isn't good enough for you, the guys at Prowler Birmingham have a fantastic new range of items to add to your toolbox.

American Bombshell is a collection of top-quality plugs and dildos designed for the serious player.

Produced in gun-metal grey, each item is made of body-safe phthalate-free PVC, featuring antibacterial S/A-Gel formula. Basically, that means it's kind to your booty! Special ripple and ridge designs provide added stimulation, making them perfect to use either on your own or with a partner.

The American Bombshell Little Boy (£13.50), B7 Tango (£15.95), B7 Warhead (£15.95), Man O War (£29.95) and top-of-the-range double-dong Tall Boy (£52.95) are all

available at Prowler. As an extra Pride treat, the guys at Prowler are giving away an American Bombshell toy to two Zone readers, who can choose from Little Boy, B7 Tango or B7 Warhead. Just name your preference when entering.

For your chance to win one of two American Bombshell toys, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer the following question.

What colour are the American Bombshell toys?

- A) Gun-Metal Grey
- B) Metallic Blue
- C) Acid Yellow

For more information about the American Bombshell toys, or to check out Prowler's full range, visit www.prowler.co.uk

Enter this great competition online at www.midlandszone.co.uk/pride between Tuesday 12 May 2014

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

SCENE

MAY 2014



PARTY WITH PRIDE

STOOSHE, AMELIA LILY, STORM QUEEN, CONOR MAYNARD,
STACEY SOLOMON AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

GREAT
LIVE ACTS
OVER
PRIDE

INSIDE...

HUNKY DAN OSBOURNE

The TOWIE heartthrob gets Wet
'N' Wild in the Midlands

BANK HOLIDAY FUN

Two Bank Holidays in May
means lots of partying!

HUGE CABARET LINE-UPS

Fun and laughter with your
favourite drag queens

4 BOTTLED BEERS or 4 ALCOPOPS or 3 BOTTLED CIDERS FOR JUST £10 UNTIL 2AM
 4 JÄGERBOMBS FOR £10 // HAPPY HOUR UNTIL 2AM

Bar Jester

**MONDAY
MADNESS**
 HOSTED BY DJ MATT

**Time Up
Tuesday** DJ BABY
 "G"

DJ CRUG **WICKY
WINEBARS** **POPPY
HOLE BIRDS**

party pop
 DJ MATT

OPEN
TIL 6AM

**Friday
Retro** DJ MATT
 OPEN TIL 6AM

OPEN UNTIL 6AM DJ MATT **#JUST
saying**

**SUNDAY
Friday** **BAR JESTER**
 BABY ON THE DECKS

**PRIDE WEEKEND AT
Bar Jester**
 FRIDAY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
 6PM UNTIL VERY LATE

BAR JESTER, 42 HOLLOWAY PARK, QUEENSWAY, BIRMINGHAM, B15 2EG
 0121 443 6044 • BARJESTER.CO.UK • FACEBOOK.COM/BARJESTERBIRMINGHAM
 OPEN: SUN/MON/TUE/WED • 12PM-11PM • THU/FRI/SAT • 12PM-2AM
 DESIGN: PANCAKES • DRINKWARE.CO.UK

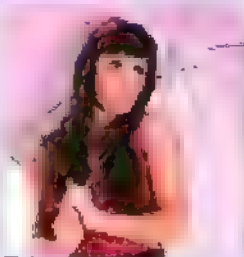
MONDAY |

5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | MAY

Get ready to Roar with Vicky Jackson as Katy Perry

Everybody's favourite tribute-act performer Vicky Jackson makes a welcome return to Shrewsbury's C.21 bar and club this month (Monday 5 May) - this time as Katy Perry. Vicky will be singing some of Perry's biggest hits, including Dark Horse, Roar, Firework and, of course, I Kissed A Girl. Not only that, but C.21 has some brilliant drinks offers, starting at just £1 - and they're available all night long too!

C.21 - Shrewsbury



BIRMINGHAM

2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS ANYONE?

Just because the weekend's ended, it doesn't mean you can't pop out and enjoy yourself after work. Head to Birmingham's Loft Lounge for 2-for-1 cocktails all day! There's a great selection, ensuring there's something for everyone. The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

☐ **2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS** - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

☐ **2 FOR £10** - New menu - Mon - Fri 12-6pm. Sidewalk

☐ **GIGGLE PRIDE** - Mon 26 May - With Lara A King, Georgia Thorp, Lindsey Hulse and Julie Jepson. The Fox

☐ **MINISTRY OF POUND** - with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am. Missing Bar

☐ **MINISTRY OF POUND** - Missing Bar

☐ **MONDAY MADNESS** - Weekly drink offers with DJ Matt. Bar Jester

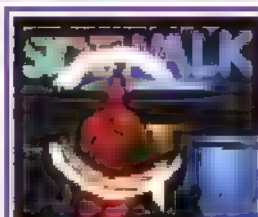
☐ **PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT** - with Mrs Mills and DJ Craig. Cash prizes and free drinks. The Village Inn

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT WITH MRS MILLS

Take a trip to The Village Inn in Birmingham for a night of fun and games with Mrs Mills and DJ Craig. Good old-fashioned Play Your Cards Right takes place every Monday, with some great prizes to be won! The Village Inn - Birmingham

☐ **POUNDED** - Bringing back the Pink Pounder. Selected drinks from £1 (branded spirits). Sidewalk

☐ **SUGAR RUSH** - £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs. Nightingale Club



£1 DRINKS AT BRUM'S SIDEWALK

If you're up for a Monday night out in Birmingham's gay village, then be sure to swing by Sidewalk on Hurst Street. Pounded takes place every Monday, offering great value drinks from just £1! Sidewalk - Birmingham

OUTSKIRTS - 1st & 3rd Monday monthly. Equator Bar

WEST MIDLANDS

☐ **FABULOUS** - Mon 5 May - Live cabaret with Vicky Jackson as Katy Perry. Drinks from just £1. C 21, Shrewsbury

CHILL NIGHT - with Karaoke Three Furnaces. Te ford

CHILL OUT NIGHT - with Free Pool and cheap drinks - Mon 5 May - Live on stage, Karly, with DJ Shawn on the decks. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

THE MONDAY CLUB - 9pm-5am - Student night. Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward. Gorgeous, Wolves

DENTED - 9pm-midnight. Downstairs with DJ Destiny and upstairs with DJ L1 Jon until 4am. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

STUDENT NIGHT - Free admission, all drinks £1.50 before midnight. Pink, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm till 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston, Northampton

DISCO - 7pm-midnight. New Foresters, Nottingham

SIDEWALK

BAR & RESTAURANT

TRY OUR DELICIOUS NEW MENU

2 FOR £10

Monday - Friday
12-6pm

Roast dinner served
Every Sunday from 1pm



WWW.SIDEWALKBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

TEL: 0121 686 6220

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

2 FOR £10 - New menu - Mon - Fri 12-6pm. Sidewalk

1 GAME ON AT BRUM'S SIDEWALK BAR

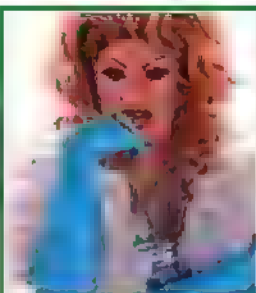
If you're a keen videogamer, then pop down and join the team at popular Birmingham gay bar Sidewalk every Tuesday for their weekly Xbox game tournament. If you're crowned as the top player, you'll walk away with some great prizes! Sidewalk - Birmingham

GAMER NIGHT - Show your skills on Xbox Tournaments, prizes for the winners. Sidewalk

MIS-SING KARAOKE - With your host, James. Party starts at 9pm till late. Missing Bar

TACKY TUESDAYS - with Charlotte and Miss Penny. Songs, Games & Prizes. The Village Inn

TUNE UP



4 TUESDAYS GET TACKY IN BIRMINGHAM

Miss Penny and Charlotte are on hand every Tuesday with a night of tacky fun. Join them to win a host of great prizes, from free drinks behind the bar to free admission to The Nightingale.

The Village Inn - Birmingham

TUESDAY - Fun & Games with Baby G. Happy Hour until 2am. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-4am. Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP QUIZ - With free buffet. Quiz starts 8.30pm. Three Furnaces, Telford

There's karaoke fun to be had at Birmingham's Missing Bar!

If you're out and about in Birmingham on a Tuesday night but you're not sure where to go, why not head for the city's Missing Bar to enjoy an evening of karaoke with DJ James? Have a drink with your mates and get your lungs warmed up and ready to sing your favourite songs. The fun kicks off at 9pm every Tuesday - and there are cheap drinks too! It certainly beats staying at home in front of the telly! Missing - Birmingham



DIVERSITY - Weekly gay friendly night, with DJ Jay playing everything from pop & hip hop to indie. Velvet, Worcester

FLAUNT - A twist of awesome tunes to suit everyone. Brewery Tap, Worcester

MISS DOLLY MIXTURES - Party Night with Dolly and DJ Sammie's karaoke and cabaret. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

STUDENT PARTY - Join DJ Mike Scott for Wasa's busiest Tuesday night party. The Loft

Bar & Club, Wasa

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2am to 2am for a great drink and friendly atmosphere. The Boston, Nottingham

CHILL OUT NIGHT - Free Pool 6pm-11pm. New Foresters, Nottingham

GAMES NIGHT - Free Pool and Nintendo Wii from 8pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

2 GOOD 2 MISS - Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mykee. Missing Bar

TWO MEALS FOR A TENNER AT SIDEWALK

If you're looking for a bite to eat at a reasonable price, look no further than Birmingham's Sidewalk. They're offering a brand new menu, with two meals for £10, Monday to Friday, noon till 6pm.

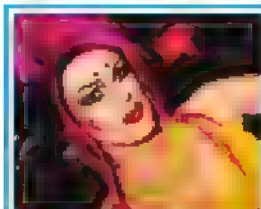
Sidewalk - Birmingham

GET WACKY THIS WEDNESDAY IN BRUM

There's some midweek fun to be had every Wednesday night at Birmingham's favourite late-night venue, Bar Jester.

If you're looking for a great way to spend your night, stop by and say hi to your host for the evening, Hallie James, and DJ Craig, who'll be spinning the tunes!

Bar Jester - Birmingham



HAVE YOU GOT THE VOICE OF BIRMINGHAM?

If you think you've got a singing voice to rival Beyonce, Ellie Goulding or Gary Barlow, then pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show it off to Charlotte The Charlotte and DJ Deano. Sadly, there are no recording contracts for the best singers!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

2 FOR £10 - New menu - Mon - Fri 12-6pm. Sidewalk

KARAOKE - with Charlotte the Charlotte and DJ Deano. Free Shots for all participants. The Village Inn

MIDWEEK MAYHEM - Free Pool. Open 7-11pm. THE FOX

WACKY WEDNESDAYS - Hosted by Hallie James with DJ Craig. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-4am. Bar Jester



So you've made it to the middle of the week and you're desperate for the weekend to arrive. Well, why wait? Pop into Missing Bar in Birmingham for a night of top fun, great tunes and cheap drinks in the company of DJ Mykee and the rest of the venue's team. They certainly know how to throw an awesome party, regardless of what day of the week it is!

Missing - Birmingham



WEDNESDAY LINE - Line Dancing every Wednesday. The Wellington

KY KELLY - and host. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

STUDENT CLUB NIGHT - Live DJ's, drinks promotions. Free before 10pm. £4 after. Three Furnaces, Telford

KARAOKE

Open 11.30am-2am. £2 drinks from 8pm to 11pm. Free Entry. The Boston, Nottingham

GAMES NIGHT - Free Pool 11pm-2am. Drinks from £1.20 a day. Karaoke & Disco 7pm-2am. New Foresters, Nottingham

OUT - Everyone's Out! Free entry for all. £1 drinks from 5pm. Nati, Nottingham

EVERY MONDAY

Fabulous


**THE BIGGEST GAY
MONDAY NIGHT
IN THE MIDLANDS!**

FREE ENTRY
B4 11PM

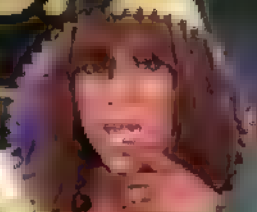
DRINKS FROM £1

9PM-3AM!

C:21



MONDAY 5 MAY
LIVE CABARET!
VICKY JACKSON AS
KATY PERRY



MONDAY 2 JUNE
SANDRA

THE VAULTS

RESTAURANT & BAR



**KEEP CALM
AND
COME GAY/LESBIAN
SPEED DATING**

Wednesday 25th June

For tickets and booking information
visit the website

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The smallest decisions can change your life forever



LAST TICKETS REMAINING

**BILLY
OCEAN**

IN CONCERT

**PLUS: FREE SOUL & MOTOWN
AFTER-PARTY FROM 10PM-3AM**

FRI 16 MAY

at 8.30pm. (18+ ONLY)

TICKETS £25 AVAILABLE HERE:

Online: www.thebuttermarket.co.uk OR from The Peach Tree

THE BUTTERMARKE

SHREWSBURY

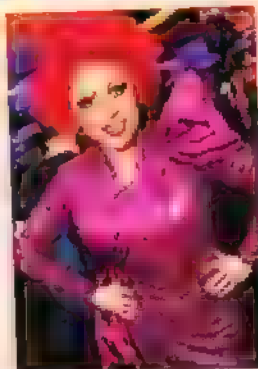
THURSDAY

1 8 15 22 29 MAY

The fabulous La Voix returns to Eden Bar

There are very few drag acts who have the pleasure of returning to Birmingham's Eden Bar time and time again, but the fantastic La Voix is one of them. Eden's customers love La Voix so much that she's returning to the award-winning venue on Thursday 8 May with an even bigger and better show. So if you're looking for something to do that night, why not pop down and have a giggle with the rest of the Eden Bar team. Go on, it's free entry!

Eden - Birmingham



BIRMINGHAM

1 2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

2 FOR £10 - New menu - Mon - Fri 12-6pm. Sidewalk

DJ DAN GOES BACK TO THE 1980s!

Join DJ Dan every Thursday night at popular Birmingham gay venue Eden Bar on Sherlock Street. Here, you'll find an awesome selection of tracks that were HUGE in the 1980s, some of which still fill the dancefloors of today!

Eden - Birmingham

BACK TO THE 80s - with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm. Eden Bar

BOMBZAI - £1.20 Bombs - 10 to choose from. Selected drinks from £1.50. DJ Mykee taking you through to the early hours. Missing Bar

DJ DEANO - On the decks. Happy Hour midnight - 2am. The Village Inn

DRAG IDOL - Thurs 1 May - Birmingham's Heat of the 10th national Drag Idol competition. The Village Inn

GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A DRAG STAR?

Drag Idol is back! Now in its tenth year, the popular talent contest travels the country to find the latest and greatest drag stars - and is stopping off at Birmingham's Village Inn on Thursday 1 May. So if you've got what it takes, pop in and take to the stage!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

DROP THE BOMB - With DJ Kam. Bombs from £1.50. Sidewalk

LA VOIX - Thurs 8 May -

Live on stage - Exclusive to... Eden Bar

MARTY'S MADHOUSE - Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano. The Village Inn

PARTY POP - Poptastic tunage with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-6am. Bar Jester

POUNDED - £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor, Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor. Nightingale Club

GILT TWINE - Open 7 late. Drinks from £1. The Fox

THE URBAN COLLECTION - Brum's new Urban night. Every Thursday 10pm-late. Club DV8

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP KARAOKE - and cabaret with Jayne van Camp. Three Furnaces, Telford

CLUB KARAOKE - with DJ Zac. The Lion, Walsall

GET OUT - with DJ Tejay. The Bell, Stourbridge

POP 69! - 9pm-5am. Drinks from £5. 69p until 2am. Open £1 until 10pm. With DJs Scottie B, Joshua & Aylen C. Gorgeous Wolves, Hampton

RETRO - with DJ Gaz on the decks. Drinks from £1 plus. Play for Cards Right. The White Mar, Wolverhampton

TASTE THE RAINBOW - with DJ Sebbie. Karaoke and drinks from £1. 7pm-late. Free admission all night. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm till 2am for a quiet drink and a friendly atmosphere. The Boston, Nottingham

KARAOKE & DISCO - 7pm-2am. New Foresters, Nottingham

TRASHY PRIDE SPECIAL

24TH/25TH MAY

ONE WEEKEND
ONE DERELICT VENUE
TWO FREE PARTIES

@ ROUTE 2

FULL DETAILS COMING SOON

Phing

BIRMINGHAM

12 PRIDE WEEKEND PASS - Fri Sat Sun 12-6pm. Entrance into The Nightingale Fri/Sat/Sun for Pride Weekend, plus a free shot of Smirnoff Gold on Saturday night available from... www.nightingaleclub.co.uk. Nightingale Club

1 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

2 FOR £10 - New menu - Mon - Fri 12-6pm. Sidewalk

IT'S A BIG GAY FRIDAY AT MISSING

Missing Bar in Birmingham is on a mission to turn Friday night into the gayest night in the city. Join DJ James for Big Gay Fridays, when he'll be playing party anthems through till the early hours. It's a great night, so why not pop by?

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours. Missing Bar

DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki. Eden Bar

FREAKY FRIDAY - with DJ Lofty. Big name cabaret at mid-night. 4am bar. Fri 2 May - Glitter Lips. Fri 9 May - Cassidy Connors. Fri 16 May - Son Of A Tutu. Fri 23 May - Lola Lasagne. Fri 30 May - Sandra. The Village Inn

FRIDAY FRENZY - R&B and floor fillers until 4am. Sidewalk

GET INFUSED AT THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ Corey takes to the decks every Friday night at Birmingham gay superclub The Nightingale, playing absolute anthems and fantastic floor-fillers. It's £2 admission, and drinks start at just £2 all night long!

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor

Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2. Nightingale Club

KICK START - Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James. Missing Bar

KARAOKE - Come and have a sing to start your weekend. The Fox

LIP GLOSS - Fri 2 May - with host Tasha. Every first Friday of the month. A night for the Trans community (friends welcome) 9pm-2am £3 admission. Plus Stripper Station. Eden Bar



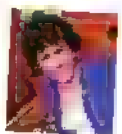
GET YOUR LIP GLOSS READY AT EDEN!

The first Friday of every month (Fri 2 May) sees Lip Gloss taking place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. The event celebrates all things trans* and welcomes their admirers and friends. It's just £3 admission and runs from 9pm till 2am!

MIDSBARS - Fri 23 May - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers. Eden Bar

RETRO FRIDAY - Retro tunes with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-6am. Pride Special - Fri 2 May - Open 8pm-until very late. Bar Jester

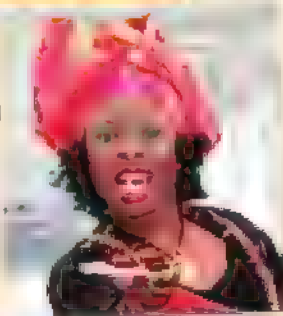
SING STAR SUPERSTAR - with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash! Eden



VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic

ENTER THE PRIDE

If you're a fan of live entertainment, head along to The Village Inn on Hurst Street. Each and every Friday, they have a different cabaret act taking to the stage to provide plenty of fun and laughter. This month's line-up is: Glitter Lips on Fri 2 May; Cassidy Connors on Fri 9 May; Son Of A Tutu on Fri 16 May; Lola Lasagne on Fri 23 May; and wrapping up the month, Sandra on Fri 30 May. Stop by for a giggle!

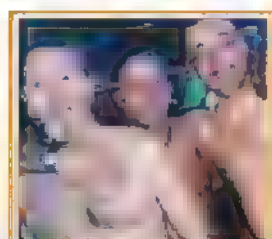


favourites. The Loft Lounge

XXL PRE-BAR - Fri 2 May - Official pre-bar for XXL. Monthly meet up for the Midlands Bears. Eden Bar

XXL PRIDE SPECIAL - Fri 2 May - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Then every 3rd Friday of each month. The Core Club

BOLLYWOOD NIGHTS Every



XXL RETURNS WITH A PRIDE SPECIAL!

The Midlands' biggest men-only night returns on Friday 23 May (one week later than usual) with a special event the evening before Birmingham Pride kicks off. You'd be a fool to miss this one!

last Friday monthly. Club DV8

FUNK'D UP - (after 11pm Saturdays) Lpl ftng funky, voca house. 11pm til 6am. £5 til 2am. £8 after. Club Chic

TV PARTY NIGHT - A Men's Night for TVs, Cross Dressers and Admirers. Every Friday night at The Greenhouse, Darlaston

WALSALL PRIDE BALL - Fri 2 May - 3 course meal at Arbor Lights, with entertainment from The Glamourettes, Sandra and Marty Mac. Afterparty at The Lion Bar & Club, Live on stage Leanne Jones (Hairspray). Arbor Lights & The Lion Bar & Club, Walsall.

BACK 2 BACK KARAOKE - with DJ Shawn and DJ Moses. 8pm-4am. - Fri 23 May - Cassidy

Connors live on stage 12am. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos until 9.45. Free entry before 10pm. The Three Furnaces Telford

CLUB FRIDAY - with DJ Zac. The Lion, Walsall

FRIDAY SOCIAL - with DJ Paul Griff & guests. The Bell Stourbridge

LUSH & YOLO!

1st Fri monthly. Drinks from £1 until mid night, with resident DJs. Gorgeous Club. Wolverhampton

PARTY NIGHT - with DJ Laura Al. your favourites from the 70's 80's, 90's and 00's. Rainbows Coventry

START THE WEEKEND - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hyde's cabaret show from 9pm. Pink. Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY - A fun and funky mixture of 70s, high energy through to current chart. Brewery Tap. Worcester

VENOM - Foxy Div ne downstairs 9pm-midnight. DJ Dyson & DJ lbs upstairs from 11pm. The Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday night with DJ Craig Y.T. £8 entry. £1 drinks. Open 9pm-4.30am. The Boston, Northampton

VALUE FRIDAY - Disco 9pm-4am. Free entry. New Foresters Nottingham

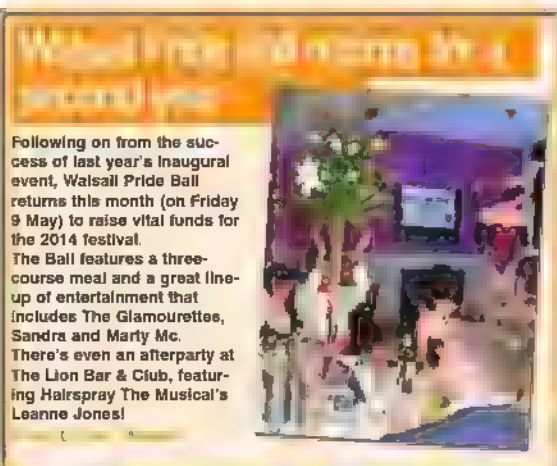
CABARET NIGHT - every Friday night from 11pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

CLUB NIGHT - with DJ Rob Lambeth from midnight playing chart toppers. Helsinki, Leicester

LIPSTIQUE - With DJ Ash playing old school camp classics. Every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Friday monthly. Curzons Derby

LIVE WEEKEND STARTS NOW! - Free admission before 11pm (all night for students). BOGOF on selected drinks. Poptastic every last Friday monthly. NG1 Nottingham

WIG OUT - New monthly 70s night. Sloanes, Leicester



Following on from the success of last year's Inaugural event, Walsall Pride Ball returns this month (on Friday 9 May) to raise vital funds for the 2014 festival.

The Ball features a three-course meal and a great line-up of entertainment that includes The Glamourettes, Sandra and Marty Mac. There's even an afterparty at The Lion Bar & Club, featuring Hairspray The Musical's Leanne Jones!



BIRMINGHAM PRIDE WEEKEND

FRIDAY 23 MAY | 9pm - 3am

The Core, 135 Sherlock Street, Birmingham

XXL LONDON

WEDNESDAYS 10pm - 3am

Pulse, No.1 Invicta Place, SE1 9UF

www.xxl-london.com | facebook.com/xxllondon

BIRMINGHAM

- **THE ATTIC** - Available for hire. Call the venue for more info - 0121 622 4256. Missing Bar
- **BACK TO THE 80s** - 2am - 4am. Eden Bar
- **BEARBRUM** - Sat 10 May. Free food. With DJ Yogi. In association with Mids Bears. Sports wear theme. Eden Bar

THE BIG BANKER AT BRUM'S SIDEWALK

Getting you in the mood for the first May Bank Holiday, Sidewalk is hosting The Big Banker on Sat 3 May. Expect big tunes and some even bigger drinks offers to get the party started!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

- **THE BIG BANKER** - Sat 3 May. Pre Pride Bank Holiday Big Weekender. Drink offers. Sidewalk

- **BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT** - Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonic in The Village Underground. The Village Inn

- **BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT** - Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions. Nightingale Club

- **BIRMINGHAM PRIDE** - Sat 24 & Sun 25 May - Celebrating Equality & Freedom around the World. Carnival Parade - midday. Victoria Square. Festival - in the Gay Village. Tickets from www.birminghampride.com

- **CHART HITS** - with DJ Dan 9pm, from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions. Eden Bar

- **CULT** - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm. Nightingale Club

- **JUST SAYING** - with DJ Matt. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 9pm-until very late. Pride Special - Sat 24 May - Open 8pm-until very late. Bar Jester

- **KARAOKE & COCKTAILS** - in The Attic, plus music from across the decades. Missing

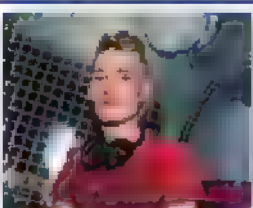
#JUSTSAYING AT BAR JESTER

If you're on a night out and looking for a late place to party, head to Bar Jester in Brum. DJ Matt's on the decks until the very early hours - and there's a Pride special to enjoy on Saturday 24 May.

Bar Jester - Birmingham

- **LBR** - With Charlotte the Charlotte. Open until 8am every Saturday. The Village Inn

- **PRIDE AT EDEN BAR** - Sat 24 May - Amelia Lily, Stooche, Big Brovaz, Sami Brookes, Stolen Identity and Luke Greenhalgh
- Sun 25 May - Stacey Solomon, Bonnie Langford, Queens of Pop, Fleurettes. All Weekend - Free entry. No wristband. No price increases. Eden Bar



SPECIAL DJ LINE-UP AT THE LOFT FOR PRIDE

The Loft Lounge is always a top place to head for on a night out, but over the Pride weekend, you're in for a real treat. DJs Simon Baker, Richard Moon and special guests The Mix Munkies are all appearing!

The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

- **PRIDE AT THE LOFT LOUNGE** - Sat Sun 24/25 May. At The Loft Lounge with DJs Simon Baker, Deano, Richard Moon plus special guests Mix Munkies. Southsides largest venue outdoor area. The Loft Lounge

- **PRIDE AT MISSING** - Sat Sun 24/25 May. Pride weekend includes a full line up of cabaret & DJs including, Twiggy.

Stellar line-up for Eden Bar during Birmingham Pride!

Award-winning Birmingham gay bar Eden has announced a cracking line-up of entertainment for the Birmingham Pride weekend. On Saturday 24 May, you'll be treated to Amelia Lily, Stooche, Big Brovaz and Sami Brookes. Then, on Sunday the 25th, entertainment comes courtesy of Queen of the Jungle Stacey Solomon, Bonnie Langford, the Queens Of Pop and The Fleurettes! Have a great time now, y'hear!



Eden - Birmingham

Baga Chipz, Son Ofa Tutu, Miss Penny, Mo & Dot and Mis Match. Missing Bar

- **SATURS-FACTION** - With DJ Kam. Sidewalk Slammers and drink promos. Sidewalk

- **SATURDAY SESSIONS** - With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm. The Loft Lounge

- **TRASHY - PRIDE SPECIAL** - Sat Sun 24/25 May. One Weekend. One Derelect Venue. Two FREE Parties. Route 2 (Yes - it's back for Pride)

- **WE <3 SATURDAYS** - with DJ Mykee playing the best party tunes. Featuring Twiggy and sexy Shane on his stiks. Open until 4am. Missing Bar



GET WET 'N' WILD WITH DAN OSBOURNE

Hot and hunky TOWIE star Dan Osbourne is set to appear at The Nightingale in Birmingham on Saturday 3 May as part of the club's Wet 'N' Wild event. It's your chance to strip off, take a shower and win £500!

The Nightingale - Birmingham

- **WET 'N' WILD** - Sat 3 May - with TOWIE's Dan Osbourne. Nightingale Club

THE BREAKFAST CLUB
Every Saturday. The ultimate morning Night Out with DJs Benny Rich, Wayne B and Scotty. Laid back, vocal, house, funk, soul and speed garage. Free before 12am. £12. Quess. £10 members. 99.99. Quess. Club Cric

- **DJ NIKKI** 1st Sat monthly. Equate Bar

- **DJ PARTY NIGHT** - Open from 9pm. The Fox

- **KARAOKE** - Every Saturday. The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

THE ANTIDOTE - Diva De. Cheap & low starts, from 9am. Destiny Dyson, posters, from 11.30am. The Factory Stoke on Tren.

BIG NIGHT OUT - Big D's top tier. 8pm-3am. The Lion. Wals

CAMP & SLAG - 9am-6am. Drinks from £1.00 in morning. DJ Phil Garder. 12.30am. Then 5am. Reservations. Gorge's. Worcester.

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promos. 11.30-9.45. Free entry before 11pm. The Three Furnaces. Tetford

FLOORFILLERS - with DJ. Andrew Smith. Harbours. Coventry

INCLUSION - with big-name Birmingham & UK DJs every week. The Bell. Southnuge

LIVE CABARET - With Dan Gaz and Sharon. 11.45am. Live cabaret at 12.30am. Sat 3 May, Pam. Catz. Sat 10 May, Terry Fox. 17 May, Candy and Katy Perry (travels). Sat 24 May, Tina. Spamine. Sat 31 May, Sandra. (The Whale of Hamstead). The Wire Mart. Wolverhampton

NOT TO MISS - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hynes. cabaret show 9pm. Pink. Stoke. 011ent

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT - 10pm-6am. Free entry before 11pm. £3 before 1am and £5 after. The Boston. Nottingham

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 11.30-6.30am. 3 DJs. With DJ. Coo. Free admission before midnight. Sweden. Leicester. NG1. Nottingham

CLUB NIGHT - With DJ Nik B. playing floor fillers and club bangers from midnight. Free entry before midnight. £6 after. Helsinki. Leicester

DISCO - Disco 9pm-4am. Free entry. New Foresters. Nottingham

DOGGY STYLE - Every 3rd Saturday monthly. Curzon's. Derby

Darren C Scott performs Storm Queen at Brum gay club

With Storm Queen's Look Right Through proving to be a smash-hit in clubs across the country, the track's vocalist Darren C Scott is appearing at The Nightingale Club in Birmingham on Saturday 24 May. Darren is performing as part of the venue's mega-impressive Pride line-up. We can't wait!

The Nightingale - Birmingham



THE UK'S BIG GAY NIGHT OUT BIRMINGHAM

BEACH AND FOAM PARTY 26TH JULY

BEACH OUTFIT
COMPETITION

TRAVEL, ENTRY AND
2 FREE DRINKS £15

COACHES FROM

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WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK
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KENT STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B5 4DD TEL: 0121 622 1718

 **nightingale club**
BIRMINGHAM

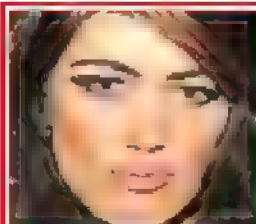
BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. **The Loft Lounge**

2 FOR £10 - New menu. Roast Dinner served every Sunday from 1pm. **Sidewalk**

CONNOR MAYNARD - Appearing on Pride Sunday with a live DJ set. **Sun 25 May The Nightingale**

DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday **Eden Bar**



BIG PRIDE CABARET LINE-UP AT MISSING

Birmingham gay bar Missing boasts a massive line-up of cabaret over the Pride weekend. Performers include Mo & Dot, Baga Chipz, Son Of A Tutu and Miss Penny.

Missing - Birmingham

KARAOKE - from 8pm. **Sidewalk**

MISSING PRESENTS - Cabaret every Sunday hosted by one of their fabulous drag queens. **Missing Bar**

SUNDAY BREAKFAST - The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95. **The Loft Lounge**

SUNDAY FUNDAY AT THE JESTER!

Every Sunday, Bar Jester in Birmingham offers a night of fun hosted by Baby G. Open from 10pm till 4am, there's happy hour until 2am! Oh, and if you pop in for Pride, there's a special night until the early hours. **Bar Jester - Birmingham**

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY - with Baby G. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-4am. **Pride Special - Sun 25 May** - Open 8pm-until very late. **Bar Jester**

SUNDAY LOUNGE - Karaoke & monthly quiz. **Sidewalk**

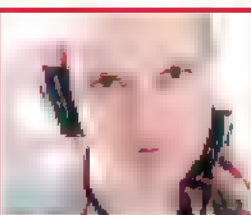
SUNDAY SESSION - with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. Plus Bingo with Mrs Mills from 7pm **The Village Inn**

VICKY JACKSON - 2 special appearances in May. **Sun 4 May & Pride Sunday Sun 25 May The Village Inn**

Exclusive Conor Maynard DJ set at The Nightingale

If you don't manage to catch teen superstar Connor Maynard on the Pride Main Stage, don't worry - he'll be appearing at The Nightingale as part of a massive live DJ set on Sunday 25 May! Connor will be spinning the hottest tracks to get all you Pride-goers geared up for one of the best nights of your lives! There's no better way to wave goodbye to Birmingham Pride for another year.

The Nightingale - Birmingham



SUNDAY SESSION WITH MILLS & DEANO!

Mrs Mills and DJ Deano host Sunday Session every, er, Sunday! A night of music and bingo from 7pm, it's a fun way to wrap up your weekend.

The Village Inn - Birmingham

9pm-1am - Fun & Games Karaoke. Prizes and a 1 round mayhem. Drinks from £2. **Gorgeous. Wolverhampton**

SHABBA SUNDAY with Marty. Terry Barrie Kruger and O J Mo on rotation from 11p-1p. **Is Karaoke. The White Hart, Wolverhampton**

SUNDAY PARTY NIGHT - Open 7pm-2am with drink promos. **Three Furnaces, Teal & D**

SHABBA SUNDAY with Foxy. Divine's Disco Bingo. **8pm-1am The Factory, Stoke on Trent**

SUNDAY ROAST - Served from 2pm. **The White Hart, Wolverhampton**

EAST MIDLANDS

BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND PARTY - Sun 4 May - 8pm

Karaoke with JoeYoke. 11pm Drag with NoName. 1am DJ Snakes. **The Boston, Northampton**

BRUNCH CLUB - Brunch for £5 with unlimited soft drinks, midday - 3pm. **Rainbow & Dove, Leicester**

KARAOKE & DISCO - 7pm-2am. **New Foresters, Nottingham**

KARAOKE WITH JOEYKE - 9pm-2am. £6 cocktails, pitchers with free entry all night. **The Boston, Northampton**

VOTED 'BEST NIGHT OUT' IN SHROPSHIRE!

FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

MARTHA RIANS

AND THE VANDILLAS



...owners to run ... Left Hand ... Honey

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WEST MIDLANDS

DRILL OUT - After the party. **Rainbows, Coventry**

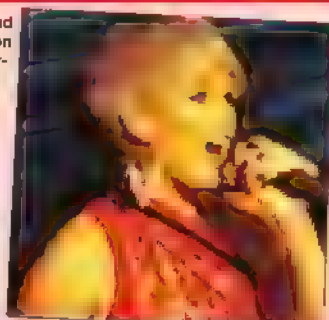
CLUB STREET - Free admission, selected 2 for 1 drinks. From 8pm. **Lor Bar & Club, Walsall**

SHABBA SUNDAY

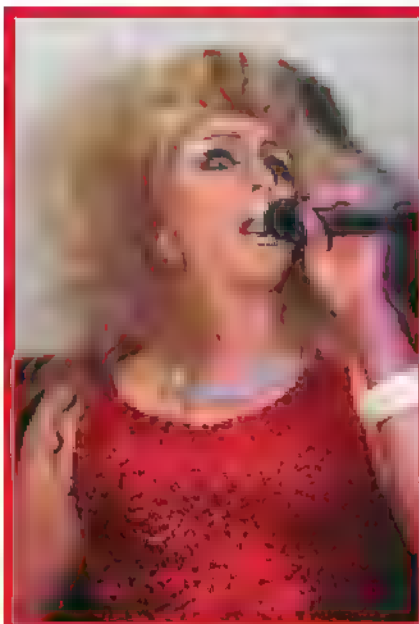
Vicky Jackson set to play Birmingham not once but twice!

Award-winning cabaret and tribute artist Vicky Jackson is set to make two appearances at popular Birmingham bar The Village Inn this month. The first is on Sunday 4 May, kicking off the first Bank Holiday weekend. Then she's back with a bang on Sunday 25 May for a special Birmingham Pride show - a great way to end the weekend.

The Village Inn - Birmingham



Marty shows Shrewsbury's C:21 how to party!

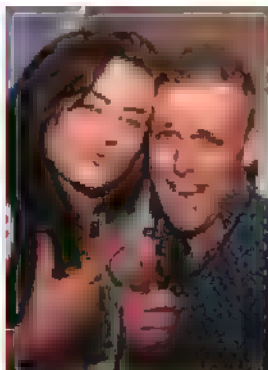
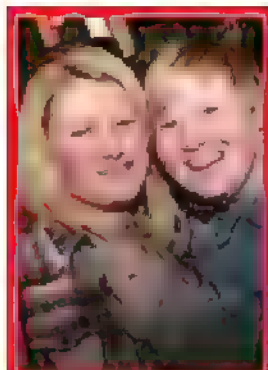
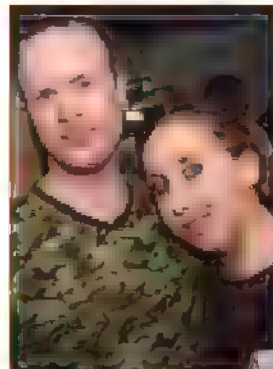
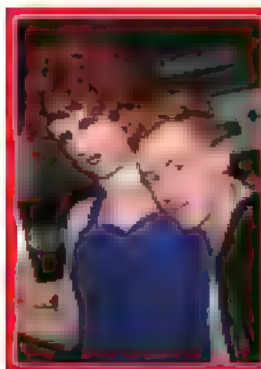


Shrewsbury's C 21 bar and nightclub certainly knows how to host a top night - as anyone who saw Birmingham's very own Marty perform there last month would doubtless confirm.

The popular Shrewsbury venue hosts live cabaret every first Monday of the month, which means May's offering Vicky Jackson as Katy Perry takes place on the 5th. If you're on a budget, fear not C 21 has some great drinks offers, starting at just £1. If you're a fan of Bombs, then you can grab a Bom Bomb (Port & Energy Drink) or the venue's new Barbie Bomb (Sambuxo & Energy Drink) for just £1.50. If you're a Vodka & Energy Drink drinker, then you're in luck too they start at just £1.98!

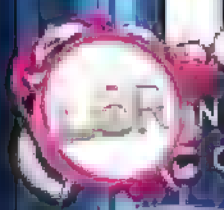
For more information about C 21 in Shrewsbury, and to see what's on there throughout the week, visit its website at www.c21shrewsbury.co.uk or call 01743 355055.

More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Pictures by Ryan Humphreys

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU



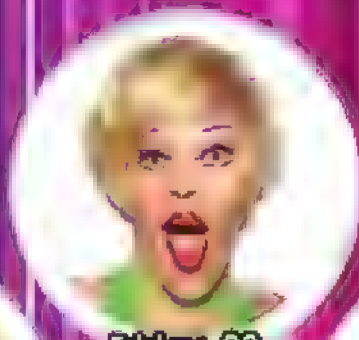
NEW TO FRIDAYS
OPEN TILL 6AM

The Village Inn :: BIRMINGHAM'S No.1



Friday 02

Glitter Lips



Friday 09

Cassidy Connors



Sunday 04

Vicky Jackson

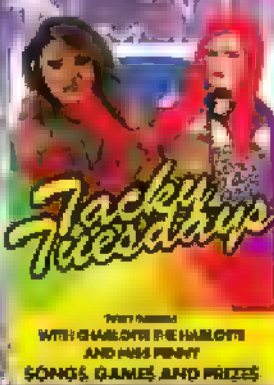


Friday 16

Son of a Tutu



Play Your
Cards Right



Jacky Tuesday

THURSDAY
WITH CHARLOTTE REHARLOTTE
AND MISS PRINCE
SONGS, GAMES AND PRIZES

KARAOKE
WEDNESDAY

WITH CHARLOTTE REHARLOTTE
AND MISS PRINCE

FREE SHOT FOR
ALL SINGERS



Marley's Madhouse

THURSDAY
WITH MISS MARLEY
AND MISS PRINCE

HAPPY HOUR
TILL 2 AM

THE VILLAGE INN WOULD LIKE TO WISH

HAPPY HOUR

12PM - 10PM : SUN - WEDNESDAY
12PM - 2PM : THURSDAY NIGHT
12PM - 8PM : FRIDAY NIGHT

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ENTERTAIN YOU

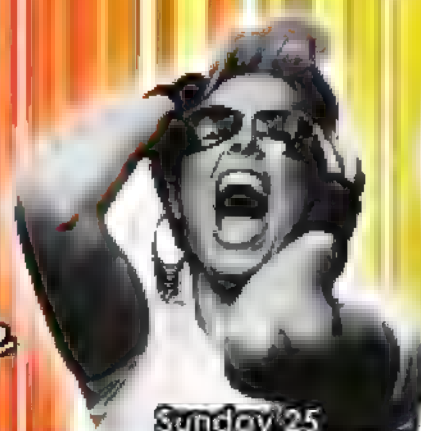
CABARET VENUE AS VOTED BY YOU!

in May



Friday 23

Lola Lasagne



Sunday 25

BIRMINGHAM PRIDE SPECTACULAR

Vicky Jackson



Friday 30

Sandra



YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY PRIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
12 PM - TILL LATE
FRIDAY: 12PM - 6AM
SATURDAY 12PM - 8AM

**The Village
In**

Missing provides the perfect place to party!

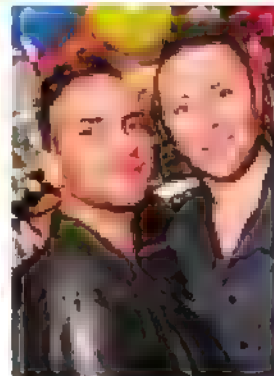
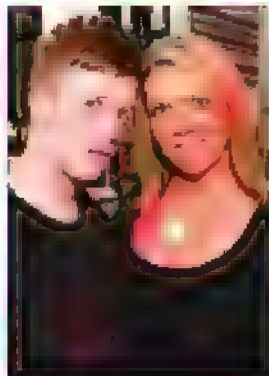
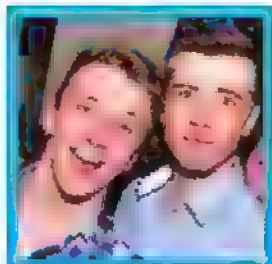
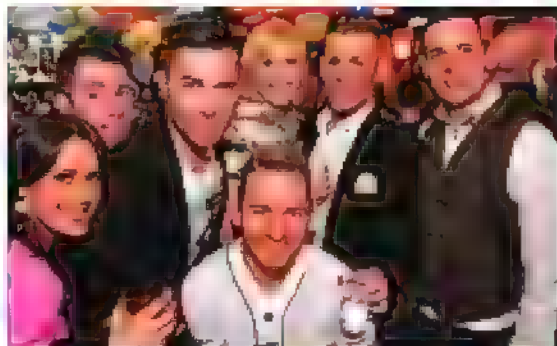
If you're in Birmingham's gay village on the hunt for a big night out, then look no further than Missing Bar.

Situated right in the heart of the city's diverse gay scene, Missing boasts a lovely team, with manager Mandy, cabaret favourite Twiggy and the rest of the equally fantastic gang dedicated to ensuring you have a great time.

Party-goers are in for a real treat this month, with the venue presenting a top line-up of DJs and cabaret acts for Birmingham Pride week end.

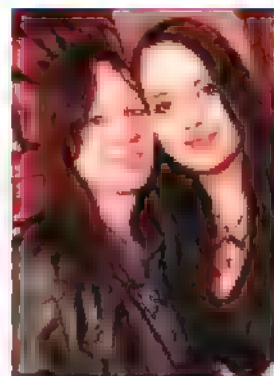
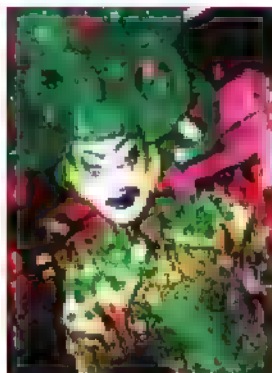
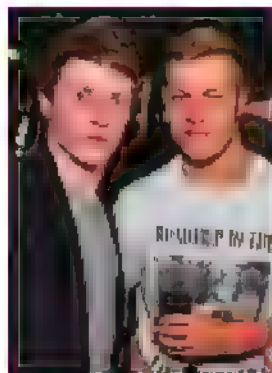
The incomparable Twiggy will be joined by Baga Ch pz, Son Of A Tutu, Miss Penny, Mo & Dot and Miss Match, while DJs Mykee, James, Mike Emery, Nikko, Traxie, Trisha and Miss Penny will be taking to the decks across the weekend. Oh, and if that's not enough, pop in on a Monday for £1 drinks - or on a Wednesday for £2 drinks. There's ample choice - so go on, enjoy yourself!

Visit www.missingbar.co.uk now for more information!



More great photos on facebook

[facebook.com/missingbarbham](https://www.facebook.com/missingbarbham)



Pictures by Laura Byrne

Missing

BIG GAY
80'S 90'S FRIDAY
& TODAY
EVERY FRIDAY

KARAOKE
&
COCKTAILS
IN THE
BAR
EVERY SATURDAY

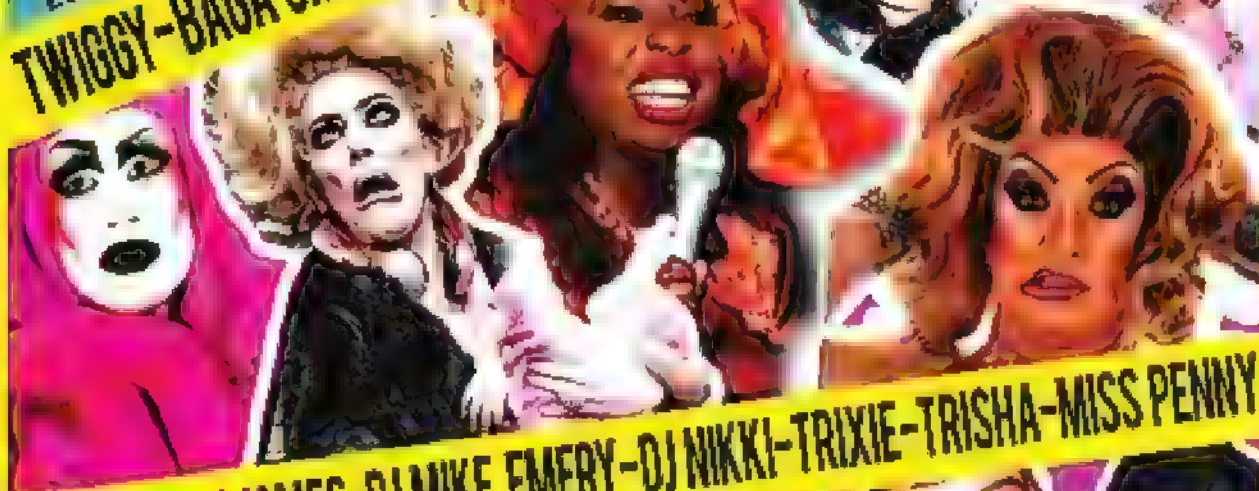
2 DRINKS
EVERY WEDNESDAY

MAMA
KARAOKE
EVERY TUESDAY

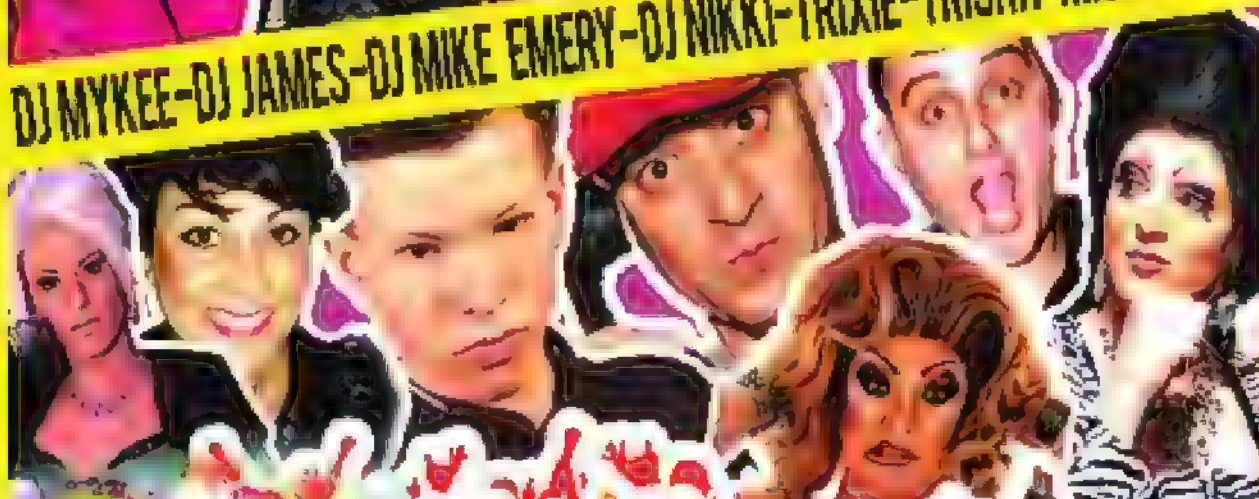
We
Saturday
BIGGEST PARTY
EVERY SATURDAY

1-800-
2-DRINKS
EVERY MONDAY
STREET
BOMBAY
120 BOMBS
EVERY THURSDAY

TWIGGY-BAGA CHIPZ-SON OF A TUTU-MISS PENNY-MO&DOT-MIS MATCH



DJ MYKEE-DJ JAMES-DJ MIKE EMERY-DJ NIKKI-TRIXIE-TRISHA-MISS PENNY



pride
24 & 25
MAY 2014
FROM
BIRMINGHAM
WITH LOVE

White Party success at Brum's Nightingale Club

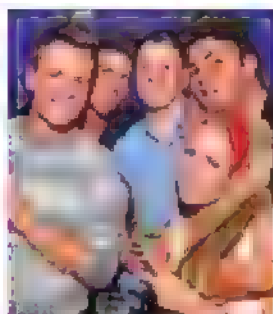
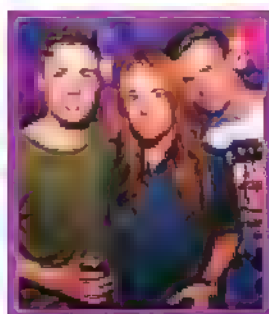
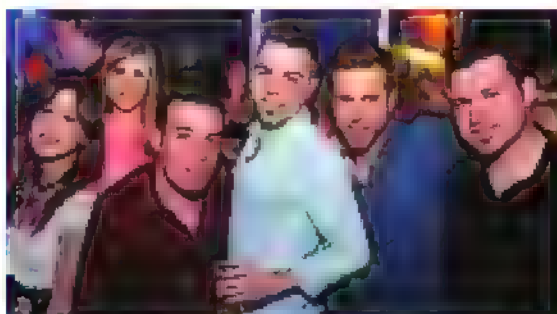
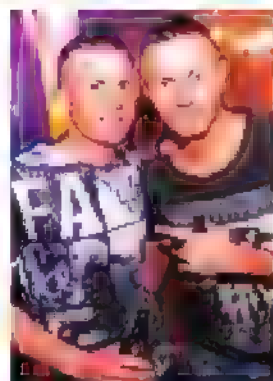
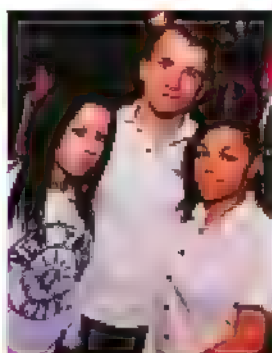
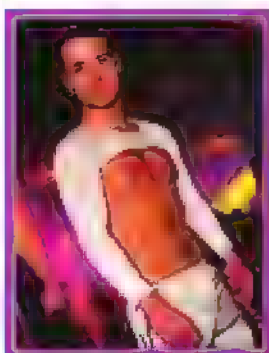
Birmingham gay superclub The Nightingale last month played host to a special White Party - and boy, was it a good one!

People flocked to the event to enjoy its electric atmosphere, with some individuals really getting into the spirit of the evening by wearing white clothing or spraying their hair white. Others as you'll see to the right, not only didn't wear white, they didn't wear anything much at all. Not that we're complaining, of

course!

If you're planning to visit The Nightingale across the Birmingham Pride weekend, grab yourself an advanced weekend pass for just £12, giving you admission to the venue on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday! You'd be mad not to take advantage of this offer.

For more information about The Nightingale, visit www.nightingaleclub.co.uk, or give them a call on 0121 622 1718.



Facebook

Start your night in style at **The Loft Lounge**

If you're on a big night out with your friends, family or co-workers, then stop by **The Loft Lounge** in Birmingham and kick-start your evening in style!

We all love a bottle of bubbly or a couple of cocktails – and luckily **The Loft Lounge** offers both (and they're bloody great too!) In fact, there's a really great cocktail menu

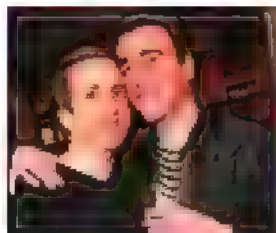
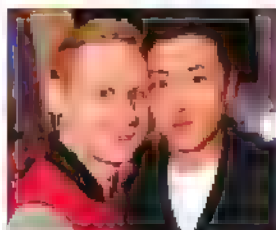
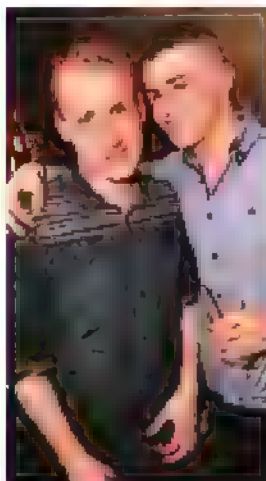
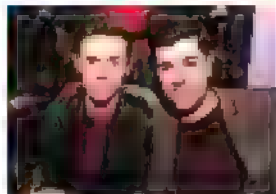
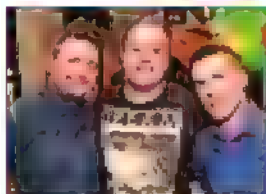
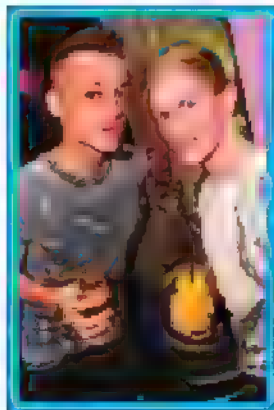
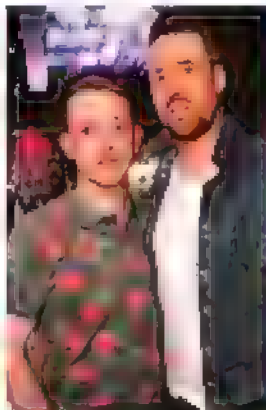
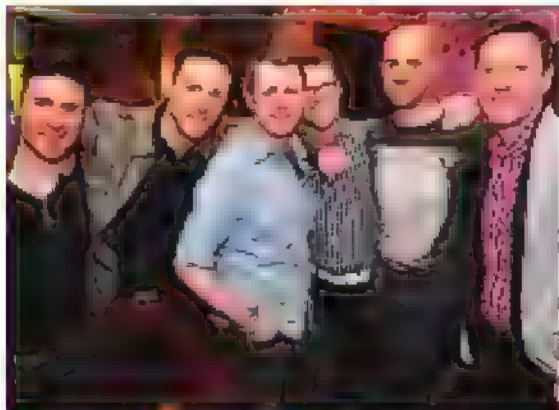
from which to choose, meaning that there really is something for everyone – even the designated driver of the group, courtesy of a selection of non-alcoholic offerings!

You might even want to begin your evening out with a meal – they've got a delicious menu that caters for all, even if you're vegetarian or have food allergies – so why not

check it out online?

Oh, and to get you nicely warmed up for the rest of your night out, DJ Simon Baker is on hand to serve up a sumptuous selection of chilled-out beats and grooves.

For more information about **The Loft Lounge** visit www.theloftlounge.co.uk or call 0121 622 2444.



More great photos on **facebook**



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

BearBrum gets sporty at Birmingham's **Eden!**

Last month saw the hugely popular BearBrum social event once again taking place at Birmingham's Eden Bar.

The event, which is a med at bears their partners, admirers and friends, takes place on the second Saturday of every month.

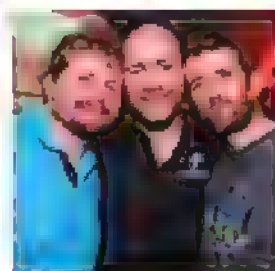
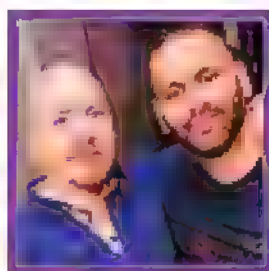
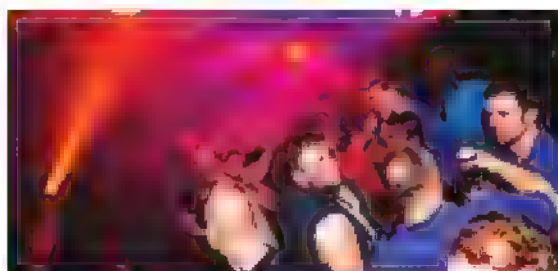
April's get together saw hundreds of men descend on the venue to mingle with, keminde people and enjoy a night of sportswear themed fun. Even the Birmingham Bulls RFC got nvolved in the action!

And that wasn't all - there was music from DJ Dan too, not to

mention live cabaret from La Voix! All in all, it was a fantastic night of high-energy fun.

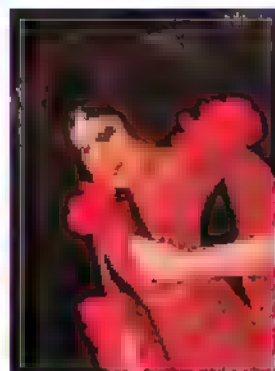
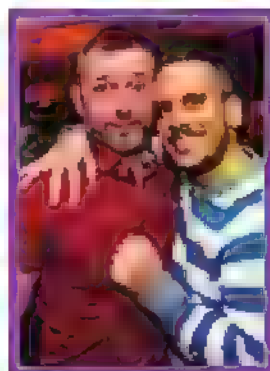
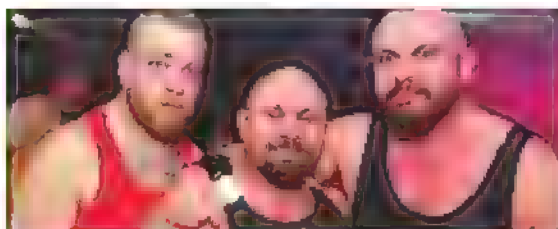
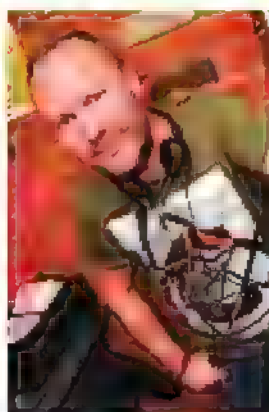
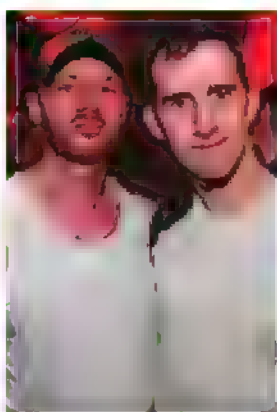
This month sees a great line-up of entertainers visiting Eden - especially across the weekend of Birmingham Pride on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May. With Bonnie Langford, Stacey Solomon, Amelia Lily and Stoshie all taking to the stage. You certainly won't want to miss out on this one - so be sure to pop in at some point during your Pride weekend!

For more information visit www.theedenbar.co.uk



More great photos on **facebook**

[facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk)



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

ALL WEEKEND FREE ENTRY

NO WRISTBAND NEEDED | NO PRICE INCREASES

eden MAY

PRIDE SAT 24th MAY

AMELIA LILY

X-FACTOR'S VERY OWN "COMEBACK KID"

STOOSHE

THEY'VE SUPPORTED JENNIFER LOPEZ |

BIG BROVAZ

MOBO AWARD WINNING R&B CHART TOPPERS

SAMI BROOKES

X-FACTOR'S WELSH LOVELY

STOLEN IDENTITY

PLUS
SPECIAL GUESTS

LUKE GREENHALGH

PRIDE SUN 25th MAY

STACEY SOLOMON

THE QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE WITH THE X-FACTOR

BONNIE LANGFORD

STAR OF BROADWAY & DANCING ON ICE

QUEENS OF POP

YOUTUBE QUEENS OF PARODY

FLEURETTES

EDEN'S FAVOURITE

BRITVIC



BROTHERS

SWALLOW

OPEN PRIDE
SAT & SUN FROM 12

FRI 2nd THUR 8th SAT 10th FRI 23rd THURS & SAT FRI & SUN

La Volx

BRUM

In Marquee
Monthly
Meet-Up
Drinks
Promotions

DJ Dan

Chart hits
Back to the
80s
6pm
drinks promos



Disco &
Karaoke
with
DJ Nicks

In the Marquee
For The Transgender
Community

exclusive to eden

In the Marquee
£3 Entry + Raffle
for 1/2 door take
DJ Togi - Free Food!



Happy
Hour
all night

114 Sherlock Street Birmingham B5 4NB 0121 422 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk

Party till the sun comes up at **The Village Inn!**

So you've decided to head into Birmingham's pretty damned amazing gay village for a night out with your mates. But where should you go? Well, one place that consistently proves to be popular is The Village Inn!

The Village Inn offers party-goers a great atmosphere in which to enjoy a night out

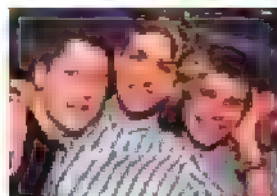
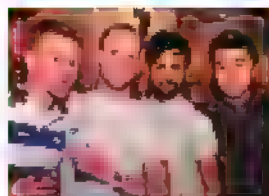
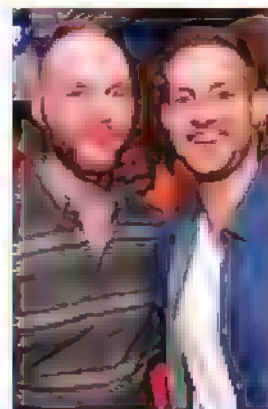
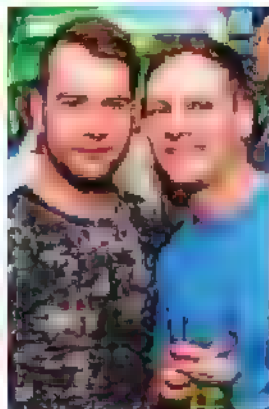
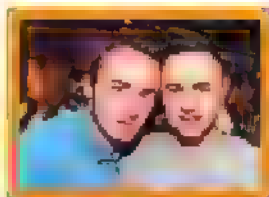
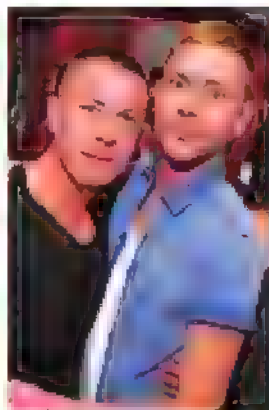
The dancefloor is usually rammajammed thanks to some great DJing from the venue's residents 'masters of spin', Lottie, Richard Moon and Deano.

You'll also find friendly and welcoming staff and hosts - including Charlotte the Harlotte and Mrs Mills - all of whom are on hand to make sure you have a great night out

whether you like it or not!

What's more, The Village Inn stays open right through till dawn and beyond on a Saturday night - well till 8pm Sunday morning, to be precise. The question is, though - can you handle it?

For more information about The Village Inn, visit www.villagebirmingham.co.uk.

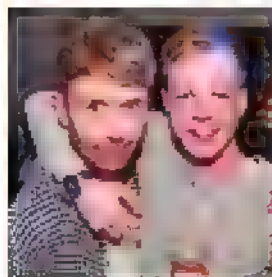


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Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Drop The Bomb every Thursday night at Sidewalk



Birmingham's gay scene is full of bars and clubs for you to visit, and one of the city's most popular is Sidewalk.

With its smart and trendy decor and its even trendier customers, Sidewalk is often one of the gay village's busiest venues.

Featuring great music and fantastic drinks offers every night one of its most popular evenings is Thursday, when it holds its Drop The Bomb event.

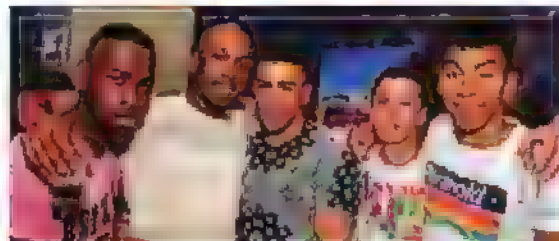
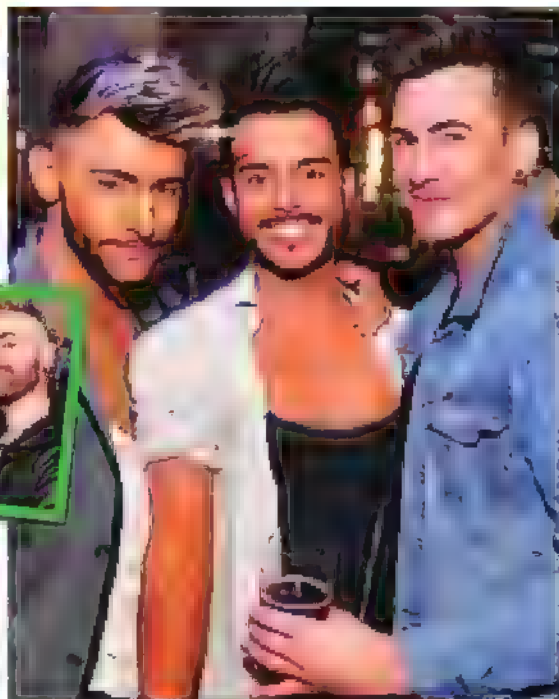
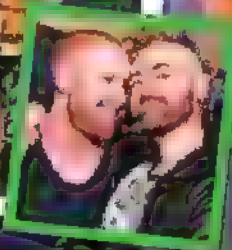
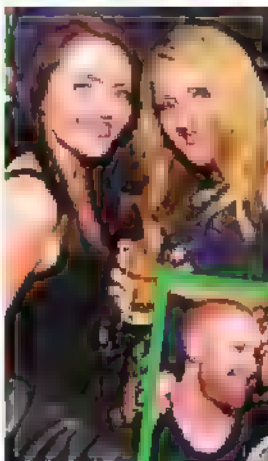
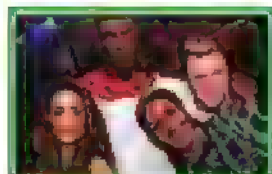
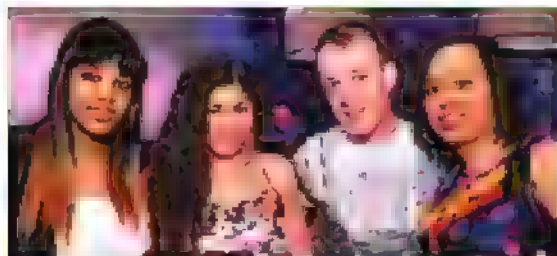
Gearing up for a rush from the city's gay students, Sidewalk offers a vast selection of Bombs at just £1.50 all night. Whether your favourite is the Jagerbomb, a Fire Bomb, Skittle Bomb or Sour Bomb, there's certainly plenty of choice!

And it's not only cheap drinks that Sidewalk is good for - the venue has just launched a brand new food menu too! And that's not even the best bit - you can get two meals for a tenner between 12pm and 6pm Monday to Friday.

If you're looking for some hearty grub, pop in on a Sunday from 1pm and grab yourself a roast dinner.

If you've not tried Sidewalk for food, then you're missing out. Perhaps you could pop in before your next big night out in Birmingham?... You know, to line your stomach!

For more info, call 0121 666 6220 or visit at www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk



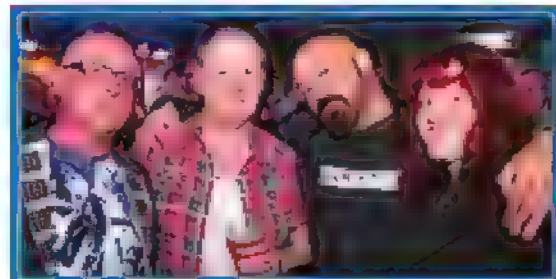
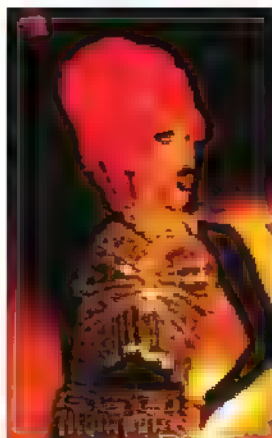
Bank Holiday fun with Twiggy at Brum's Bar Jester

Scene favourite Twiggy took to the stage at Birmingham's Bar Jester last month, entertaining the crowds with a big Bank Holiday cabaret show.

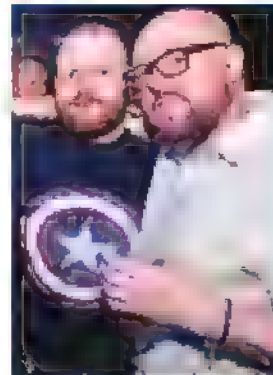
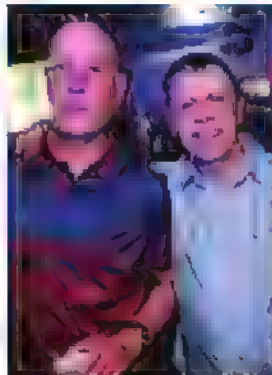
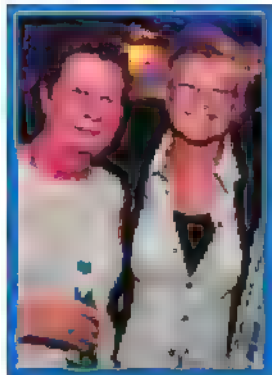
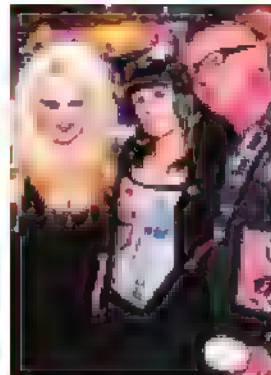
There were gags aplenty to enjoy, not to mention a few songs from the lady who loves to make people smile!

The Jester makes for a fantastic night out. Every Saturday night, DJ Malt takes to the decks until 6am with #JustSaying Saturdays, featuring some of the biggest and best tunes around, as well as a few gay-scene favourites.

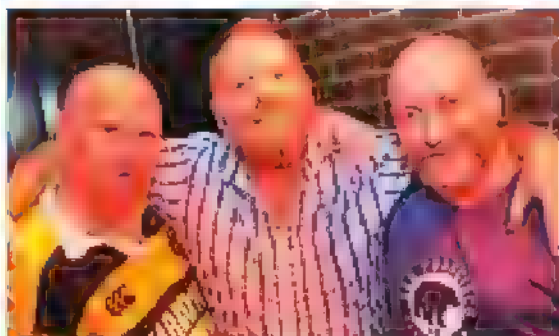
For more information about Bar Jester, pop online and visit barjester.co.uk or call 0121 643 8344.



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Pictures by Laura Byrne



XXL: A huge hit with the men of the Midlands

Each and every month, the men of the Midlands head to Birmingham's Core Club, where London's biggest men's club night, XXL, is held.

The award-winning event takes place every third Friday of the month (with the exception of this month, as it's being delayed a week so as to coincide with Birmingham Pride on Friday 23 May).

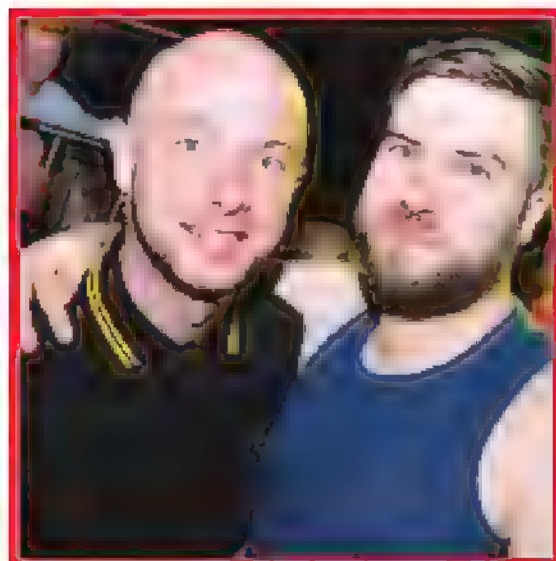
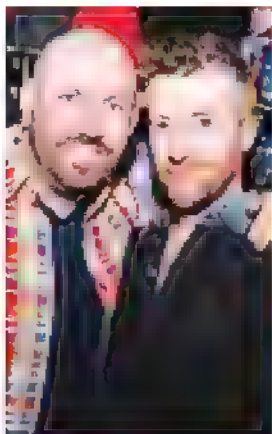
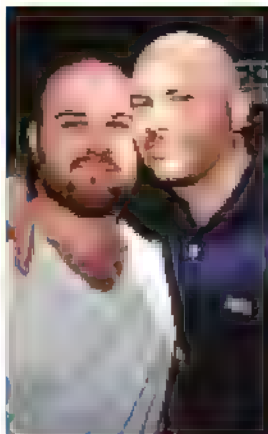
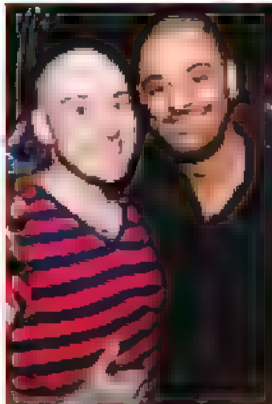
XXL costs £5 admission and sees The Core Club packed full of, kemedind fe, as think bears cubs and other tribes of gay men.

If you're looking for a bit of fun,

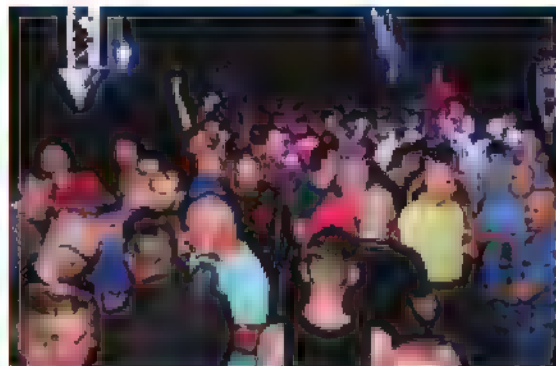
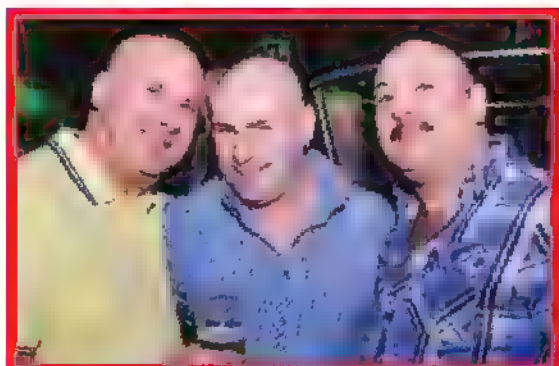
be sure to head upstairs, where you'll find a cruiser element to the club night. Downstairs, meanwhile, the dancefloor is invariably packed to the proverbial rafters, thanks to DJ Christian M's brilliant playlist.

If you're on a budget, don't worry. The Core offer a comprehensive list of drinks, many of which are on offer.

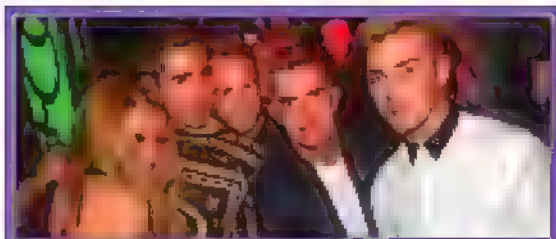
XXL is hosted at The Core Club on Sherlock Street in Birmingham. For more information about The Core Club and XXL, visit www.xxl-london.com or www.thecoreclub.co.uk.



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Pictures by Antony Collins



In Northampton? Enjoy a bostin' time at the ever-popular **Boston!**

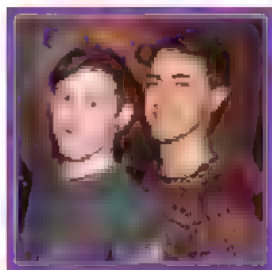
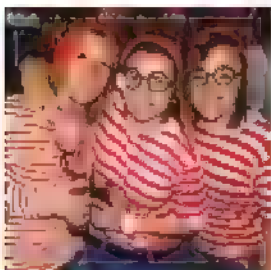
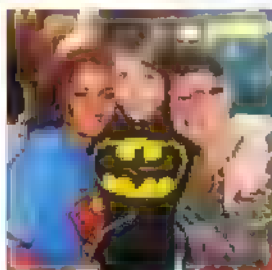
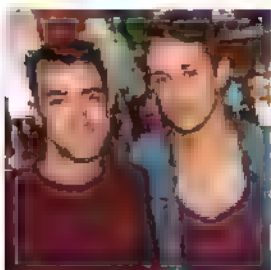
If you live in or are visiting Northampton and want a great night out in a friendly bar, then be sure to swing by **The Boston** for a bostin' time!

The Boston is run by a fantastic team, headed by venue licensee Danny. They're a fun bunch who love to create a great atmosphere for their customers – and judging by the significant number of returning regulars, they're certainly succeeding in making The Boston a top place to party. Friday night is Pink Powder night at the venue, featuring £1

drinks and DJ Craig T playing the very best in R'n'B, chart, dance, pop and cheese right through till 4.30am.

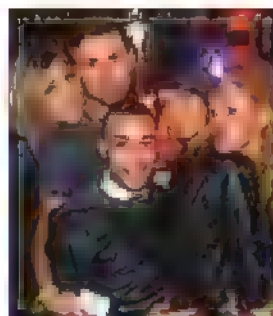
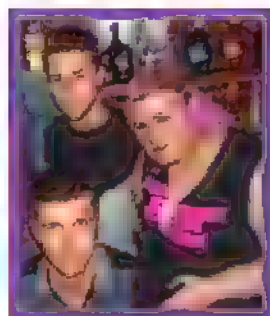
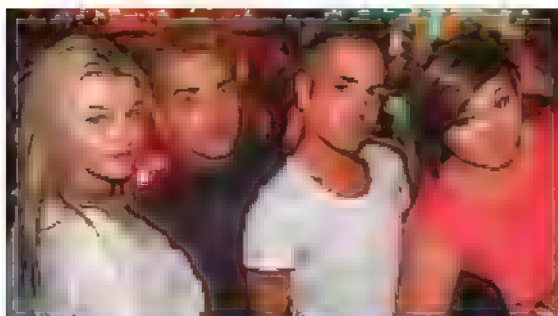
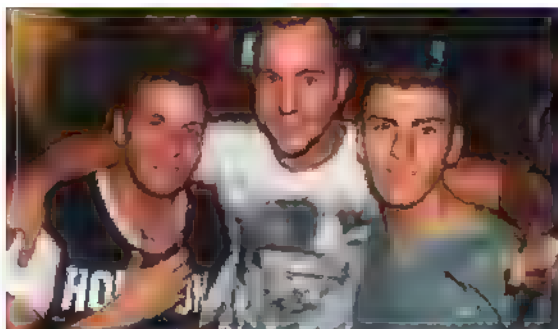
Then, on Saturday nights, it's the Big Weekend Party with DJ Cilla. It's free to enter before 11pm, £3 before 1am and £5 afterwards, with the evening's fun carrying on until 5x in the morning.

For more information about The Boston in Northampton, visit fb.com/thebostonnorthampton or call 01604 604404.



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Pictures by The Boston

Birmingham

BAR JESTER

Horwath Circus,
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344
www.barjester.co.uk
See pictures on page 62

p40

BOLTZ CLUB

Lower Essex St B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 366 6898

CLUB CHIC

28 Horsefar B11DD
Tel: 0121 666 6906

CLUB DVS

16 Lower Essex St
B5 6JL
Tel: 0121 622 1060

THE CORE

Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk
See pictures on page 63

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EDEN BAR

Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.thedenbar.co.uk
See pictures on page 68

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EQUATOR

Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN

Wrentham St B5 6GL
Tel: 0121 322 1452

THE FOX

17 Lower Essex St,
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

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LOFT LOUNGE

142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
See pictures on page 56

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MISSING BAR

Hurst St B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk

See pictures on page 54

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THE NIGHTINGALE

Kent St, Bham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingalesclub.co.uk

See pictures on page 57

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RSVP

Formerly Oyster Street
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Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK

Hurst Street,
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk
See pictures on page 61

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THE VILLAGE INN

Hurst St, Bham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
See pictures on page 60

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THE WELLINGTON

72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551 738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Worcester Street
GL1 2NF
Tel: 011452 690045

p52

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road, DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

VALIANT
39 Army Street ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 31812

SHREWSBURY

C:21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
See pictures on page 51

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THE PEACH TREE

21 Abbey Foregate,
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
See pictures on page 51

SPIRIT

22 Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritshrewsbury.co.uk

STOKE-ON-TRENT

THE FACTORY
67 Bryn St,
Hanley ST1 5AF

PINK

93 Stafford Street
ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 212772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St, DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Proud Crowd
1st Mon monthly
7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bradford Rd
Macclesfield TF7 4 B
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

LION BAR & CLUB
Birchills St
WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

p13

THE RED LION

Park St WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

GORGEOUS CLUB
School St WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247

THE WHITE HART

Walsall
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
51 Lower Moor WR1 2SG
Tel: 01452 80466

VELVET CLUB

Arge Row WR1 3JN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St DE1 1L
Tel: 01332 381742

CURZONS
25 Curzon St DE1 1LH
Tel: 01332 363739

LEICESTER

DOVER GALLERY
34 Dover St LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 250 3052

HELINSKI
94 Rutland St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 168

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charnes St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 538

SLOANES

35 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM

(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Beilgrave Gate, LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

LOUGHBOROUGH

PROUD @ GALLERY
Gay night every Thursday
21 Swan Street LE11 5BL
Tel: 01509 216088

MANSFIELD

CHEEKY MONKEY
Leeming St NG18 1NG
Tel: 01623 633330

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604434

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Ann's St NG1 3JX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE MUSGRAVE INN

38 Lower Parliament
Street NG1 3BA (Gay
Friendly)

NG1 CLUB

1680 Lower Parliament
St NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

PROPAGANDA

88 Narway, NG1 1PS
0115 979 9183

BIRMINGHAM VENUES

VENUE KEY

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|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Missing | 9 Boltz Club |
| 2 Loft Lounge | 10 The Fox |
| 3 Equator | 11 The Nightingale |
| 4 Sidewalk | 12 Club DVS |
| 5 Queer Street | 13 The Fountain |
| 6 The Village | 14 The Wellington |
| 7 Eden Bar | 15 Club Chic |
| 8 The Core | 16 Bar Jester |



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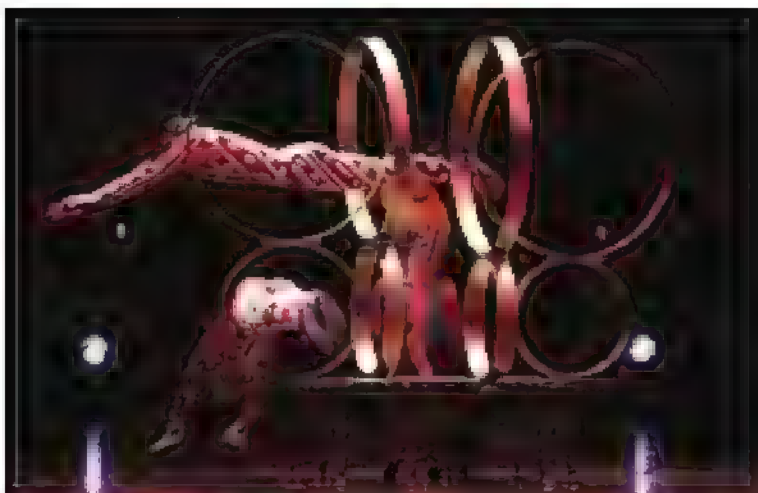
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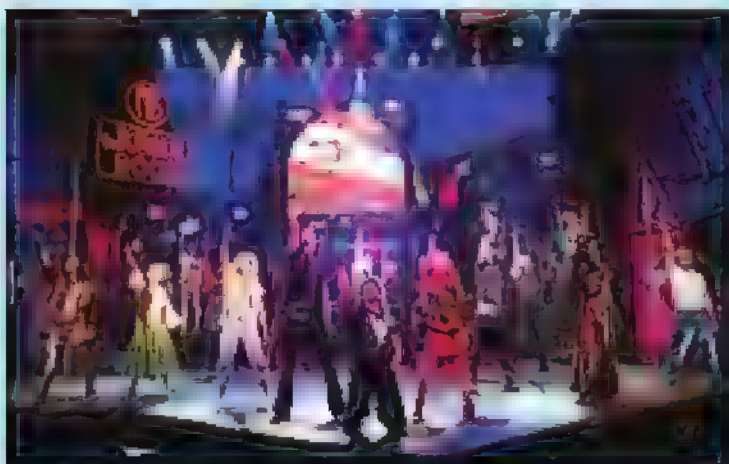


Cirque Du Soleil: Dralion

The internationally acclaimed Cirque Du Soleil returns to the region to present the UK debut of its signature production. Drawing inspiration from Eastern philosophy, Dralion (pronounced dra-lee-on) showcases the three thousand-year-old tradition of Chinese acrobatics to explore the ongoing quest for harmony between humans and nature.

The ensemble which has done most to restore people's view of the circus as a valid and desirable form of entertainment, Cirque du Soleil (or Circus of the Sun) was founded in Quebec, Canada, in 1984, and has since gone on to present some of the most successful and groundbreaking theatrical extravaganzas of all time. A massive hit wherever it erects its big top, the company has performed in more than two hundred-and-seventy cities, on every continent except Antarctica, and in front of a combined total of ninety million-plus people.

LG Arena, Birmingham, Thurs 22 - Sun 25 May.



Rock Of Ages

Cinema-goers who caught the 2012 movie version of Rock Of Ages, starring Tom Cruise, Alec Baldwin, Russell Brand and Catherine Zeta-Jones, will know exactly what to expect from this feel-good musical. For those who didn't and therefore don't, it focuses on the romance between a small-town girl and a big-city rocker, and is packed to its proverbial rafters with classic 1980s numbers.

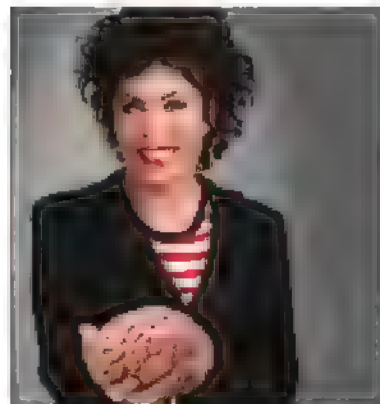
So if, for you, the decade of Gasnost, yuppies, Miami Vice and mullet hair-dos took place against a soundtrack of rock anthems such as We Built This City, The Final Countdown and I Wanna Know What Love Is, then this is undoubtedly a show worth catching... Ben Richards and Noel Sullivan star.

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 12 - Sat 17 May
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 14 - Sat 19 July

Ruby Wax

Loud-mouthed, brassy, ballsy and unapologetically 'in your face', American funnywoman Ruby Wax needs no introduction on these shores, having scored a massive hit in the UK during the 1980s as part of the burgeoning alternative comedy scene. In a career that's never really seemed to slow down, Wax has been not only a stand-up comedian but also a chat show host, an actress, and a script editor for Absolutely Fabulous, in which she also made numerous guest appearances.

The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury,
Thurs 22 May

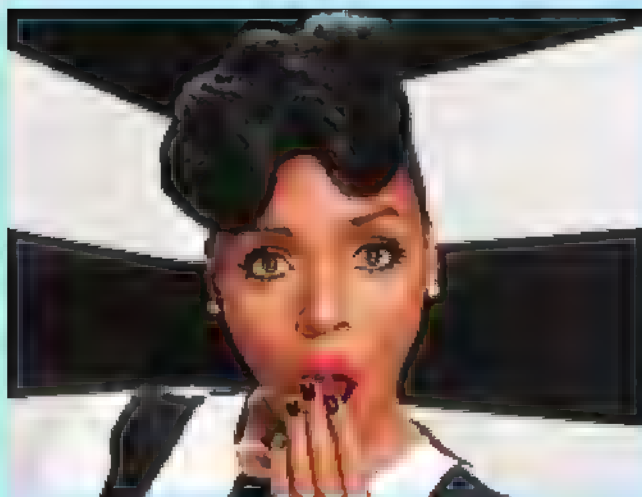


Tom Stade

Clever, controversial, and Canadian pretty much sums up Tom Stade, a familiar face on BBC TV programmes such as Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and Mock The Week. Tom has headlined gigs in comedy hotspots like New York and London by way of locations such as Amsterdam and Johannesburg, and has also earned his corn in far-flung war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan, scoring some major hits by entertaining the troops.

The Glee Club, Birmingham,
Fri 30 - Sat 31 May





Janelle Monáe

Paying Birmingham fans a compliment by playing here on her exclusive three-date tour, Janelle Monáe is The Electric Lady, and plays in support of the album of the same name. Nominated for Best International Female at the BRITs this year, Janelle's new album has already spawned singles Primetime and Q.U.E.E.N., featuring Erykah Badu.

Wearing only a uniform of monochrome, her alter-ego Cindi Mayweather is an alien sent from the future to save mankind. Watch instead as she saves the music industry with her Bowie-esque creativity and imagination. Cody Chesnutt supports.

The Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 8 May



Paolo Nutini

After a period of wound-licking in the aftermath of a relationship break-up and following the release of two successful albums which sold over three million copies between them, Paolo Nutini here returns to the limelight in support of third album *Caustic Love*, the second single from which, *Iron Sky* has earned warm praise from no less a luminary than Adele. Admitting that performing live still makes him nervous, Scottish singer Nutini is touring prior to summer gigs at Glastonbury, Radio One Big Weekend and T In The Park.

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Fri 30 May



Katy Perry

One-time Christian artist Katy hit the big time with a secular sound that's been described as a mix of 'sass and spunk'. The multi-award-winning Californian combines cheeky pop with more commercial pop/rock music, presenting a sound that calls to mind Lily Allen, Avril Lavigne and Alanis Morissette. Having chalked up over eleven million album sales and eighty-one million singles sales worldwide, Katy this month visits Birmingham on her *Prismatic World Tour*, which she's undertaking in support of fourth studio album *Prism*. Iconic Pop support.

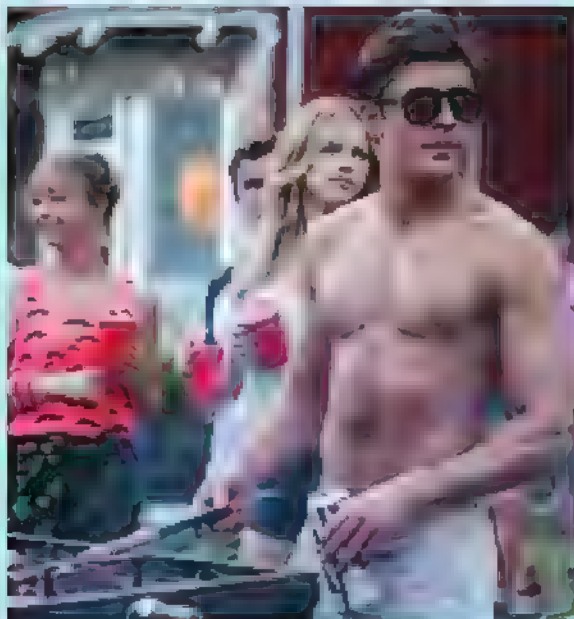
LG Arena, Birmingham, Tues 13 - Wed 14 May



Billy Ocean

Trinidad-born Billy Ocean scored his biggest successes in the 1970s and, particularly, the early-to-mid-80s, winning the 1985 Grammy Award for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance for his worldwide hit *Caribbean Queen*. As well as enjoying numerous hits himself, Ocean has also penned songs for various other artists, including LaToya Jackson, Randy Crawford, Marti Pellow and Boyzone. In 2011, he became a Companion of the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, his title being presented to him by Sir Paul McCartney.

The Buttermarket, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 May; The Robin, Bilston, Sat 24 May; Lichfield Garrick, Sun 26 May



Bad Neighbours **CERT 15** (97 mins)

Starring Seth Rogen, Zac Efron, Rose Byrne, Dave Franco, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Lisa Kudrow, Craig Roberts
Directed by Nicholas Stoller (USA)

'Bad Neighbours' could actually be the name given to a sub-genre of American comedy. Here, the deal is that family man Seth Rogen (with new-born baby girl) moves next door to a frat house run by the unruly, beer-swilling Efron. Expect some pretty strong language, nudity and "crude sex references." **Out 3 May**



Frank **CERT 15** (97 mins)

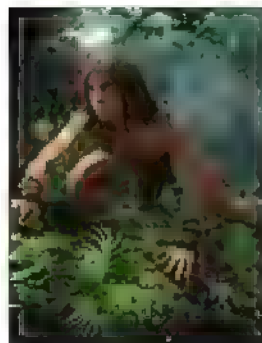
Starring Michael Fassbender, Domhnall Gleeson, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Scoot McNairy, Tess Harper Directed by Leonard Abrahamson (UK, Ireland)

Eccentricity is the order of the day in this small-scale indie Irish comedy. Frank (Fassbender) is the lead singer of a band called Soronprfs [sic], who wears a large paper-mâché mask, not only when he performs, but when he sleeps and showers, too. Jon Burroughs (Gleeson) is the wannabe musician who joins the band when they move to Ireland to cut an album. **Out 9 May**

Tarzan **CERT PG** (99 mins)

Featuring the voices of Kellan Lutz, Spencer Locke, Jaime Ray Newman
Directed by Reinhard Klooss (Germany)

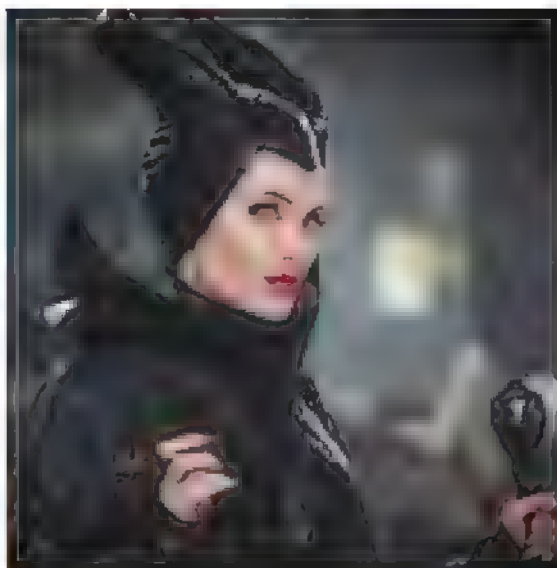
It really doesn't seem that long ago that Disney brought us an animated version of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Apeman (with songs by Phil Collins). However, this edition was filmed in motion capture in Munich and pits Tarzan and Jane against an army dispatched by Greystoke Energies. **In 3D Out 2 May**



Blended **CERT 12a** (97 mins)

Starring Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore, Bella Thorne, Terry Crews, Joel McHale Directed by Frank Coraci (USA)

While hardly Tracy and Hepburn, Sandler and Barrymore team up for the third time in this romantic comedy. Following a blind date that misfires, Jim (Sandler) and Lauren (Barrymore) find themselves stuck together at a family resort. Coraci previously directed Sandler in The Wedding Singer, The Water Boy and Click. **Out 23 May**



Maleficent **CERT tbc**

Starring Angelina Jolie, Sharlto Copley, Elle Fanning, Sam Riley, Imelda Staunton, Juno Temple, Lesley Manville
Directed by Robert Stromberg (USA)

Following the success of the live-action Mirror Mirror and Snow White and the Huntsman, Disney now serves up their own version of a fairy tale with this retelling of Sleeping Beauty. The twist is that it's told from the viewpoint of the wicked fairy, Mistress of All Evil, as created in the original 1959 cartoon. Angelina Jolie should certainly do her justice. Shown in 3D and the IMAX format. **Out 30 May**

DVDs

Stranger By The Lake (18)

Summer time. A cruising spot for gay men seeking nameless sexual encounters is tucked away on the shores of a secluded and picturesque lake in rural France. Franck is an attractive young man who falls in love with Michel, a striking, extremely potent but ethically dangerous man.

Franck has witnessed this first hand, but his desire for Michel knows no bounds: this is a relationship he must have at any cost. Stranger By The Lake is a tense thriller set against the secluded backdrop of what becomes the most dangerous lake in France.



Reaching For The Moon (15)

Set at the height of 1950s glamour, this award-winning drama recounts the story of the extraordinary relationship between Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Elizabeth Bishop (played by Miranda Otto, Lord Of The Rings) and Brazilian architect Lota de Macedo Soares (the beautifully handsome Giona Pires). In search of inspiration, Bishop leaves America having accepted

the invitation of an old college friend to stay with her on her sprawling country estate in Brazil. But she never counted on meeting the love of her life - her friend's partner. At first, the fiery personalities of the two women collide and lead to passion-fuelled debates, but animosity quickly turns to attraction, then desire...



New Music



Sheezus

Lily Allen

The first album from Lily Allen in five years, Sheezus features a selection of witty pop songs, from her explicit comeback single Hard Out Here to the moving cover of Somewhere Only We Know.



In The Lonely Hour

Sam Smith

In The Lonely Hour is the debut album of soulful singer Sam Smith, whose smash-hits - including La La La and Money On My Mind - saw him bag the 2014 Critics' Choice Award at the BRITs. Sam's set to smash into the album charts with this fantastic offering of real musical genius.

New Eyes

Clean Bandit

Featuring brothers Jack and Luke Patterson alongside Grace Chatto and Neil Amin Smith, Clean Bandit formed at university in 2008. They've already stormed the charts with the number one hit Rather Be, featuring Jess Glynne.

...and something to read

American Savage by Dan Savage

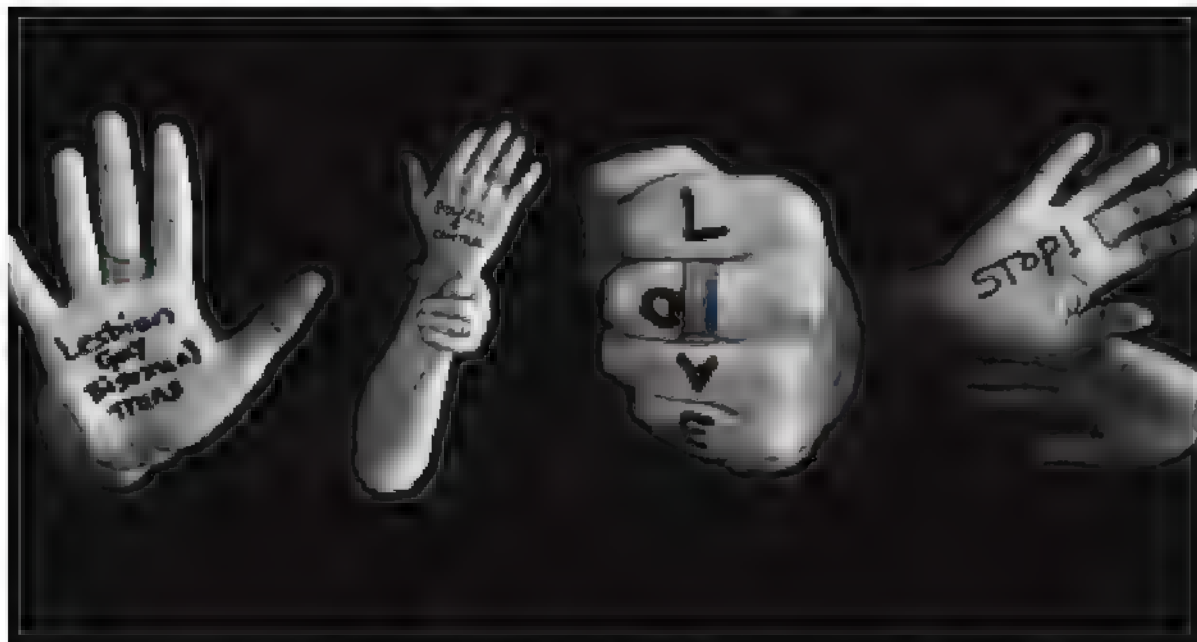
Well known for his straight talking and humour, columnist and provocateur Dan Savage is recognised as someone whose opinions about our culture, politics and society should not only be listened to but taken seriously.

Dan's always had a loyal audience, thanks to his sex advice column Savage Love, but since the incredible global success of his It Gets Better project, his profile has absolutely skyrocketed. Now, in American Savage, he writes on topics ranging from marriage and parenting to the gay agenda, the Catholic Church and sex education.



LGBT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLOSET

Recent evidence suggests that domestic violence will occur in a staggering one-in-four lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans* relationships. Midlands charity Birmingham LGBT has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence within the LGBT community...



Domestic violence and abuse is a serious problem in modern society, affecting the physical and psychological wellbeing of the victim and any witnessing children

Domestic violence and abuse can include physical abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, financial abuse and sexual abuse

The Home Office defines domestic violence as:

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality"

While society as a whole is becoming more aware of domestic violence, the problem remains both hidden and tolerated within LGBT relationships. Evidence suggests that domestic violence will occur in one in every four LGBT relationships. Despite this, there's very limited specialist service provision for victims and very little information about the subject – a fact which leads to many victims suffering alone, being unable to identify what's happening to them and not knowing where to go for support.

So what's being done about the issue?

As part of its domestic violence needs assessment, Birmingham Community Safety Partnership recognised that LGBT victims of domestic violence in the city had an unmet need. As a result, it's commissioned Birmingham LGBT to carry out a feasibility study into the needs of LGBT victims, deliver training to service providers and develop an awareness-raising

campaign

The campaign is called A Different Closet, and includes leaflets, posters, press adverts and a billboard in Hurst Street. The LGBT community has historically been reluctant to self-organise around this issue. Having fought hard to have its relationships recognised and valued in a homophobic, biphobic and transphobic society, the community has found it difficult to embrace the notion that some of those relationships are abusive.

What can you do if you're a victim?

There are a number of services which can help if you're a victim of domestic violence. Here are just a few:

Broken Rainbow is dedicated to confronting and eliminating domestic violence and abuse within and against the LGBT communities. It runs a helpline and can be contacted on **0300 999 5428** between 1pm and 5pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, or between 1pm and 8pm on

Mondays and Thursdays. There's also a trans* specific service on a Tuesday. You can also visit www.brokenrainbow.org.uk.

Women's Aid is a key national charity working to end domestic violence against women and children. Its 24-hour helpline number is **0808 2000 247**. There's also more information on its website, www.womensaid.org.uk.

Respect – a charity that helps domestic violence perpetrators – also operates the **Men's Advice Line** for males who are victims of domestic violence. Help can be sought by dialling **0808 601 0327**. For more information about the services that Respect offers, visit www.respectuk.net.

If you'd like more information about how Birmingham LGBT is helping the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* community deal with domestic violence, visit www.bigt.org.

But remember – in an emergency, DIAL 999!

LGBT Domestic Violence

A DIFFERENT CLOSET



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAPPENS
IN OUR COMMUNITIES TOO**

for more information visit
www.blgbt.org



Broken Rainbow UK National LGBT Helpline **0300 999 5428**

Women's Aid and Refuge
24-hour Freephone Helpline **0808 2000 247**

Respect Men's Advice Line **0808 801 0327**

In an emergency call **999**

HATE DOESN'T BELONG HERE

☐ DISABILITY
☐ RACE
☐ RELIGION
☐ SEXUAL ORIENTATION
☐ TRANSSEXUALITY

REPORT IT
WWW.REPORT-IT.ORG.UK

NO

HATE CRIMES CAN RECEIVE HARSHER SENTENCES

BLACKBURN POLICE
 01525 351122
 101
 REPORT IT

WWW.REPORT-IT.ORG.UK

Clinic at the Lion Bar & Club

Free & Confidential Sexual Health Screening

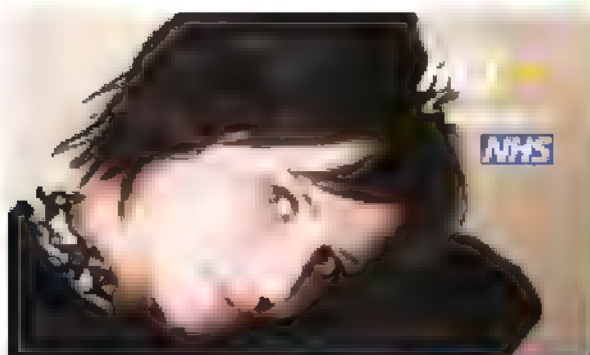
May 31st
June 28th
July 26th

last Saturday of the month
9pm ~ 11:30pm

Hep B vaccinations & Boosters
 Syphilis/Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea screening
 HIV tests
 & more

you don't have to be Gay, Male or even Welsh to take advantage of this service

Walsall HIV Team 07736 124 445
 morriscolin@walsall.gov.uk
 Walsall Centre for Sexual Health RCUH D1022 63 33 41



HEALTHY GAY LIFE
WOLVESHEAD
PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICE

FREE SEXUAL HEALTH & MENTAL
 HEALTH COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY
 SERVICE FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL
 AND TRANS PEOPLE IN BIRMINGHAM

www.hglife.uk
 00 National Counselling
 and Psychotherapy Lead
 on 07976 919481

Do you think you have a drink problem?
 Have you recently had a drink problem?
 Are you the partner or friend of someone with
 alcohol related issues?
 Would you like support in dealing with the issues?

**Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40
 Holloway Circus, Birmingham. B1 1EQ
 From 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

You can email us at
alcohol@gaylgbt.org.uk

Call us on
 0121 222 2222

Or just Drop In

100
 Birmingham 1gbt

**ALCOHOL
 & LGBT
 SUPPORT GROUP**

TAKE PRIDE IN EUROPE!

Four top destinations to party with Pride

There are plenty of Pride events taking place across the Midlands and the UK each and every year - but if you're looking for something new to try, why not venture across Europe and check out how various other countries do things? Here's our top four picks...



West Pride Gothenburg, Sweden

Wednesday 28 May - Sunday 1 June 2014

West Pride is more intimate than its cousin in Stockholm, and celebrates the lives of the region's LGBT people in the context of art and culture.

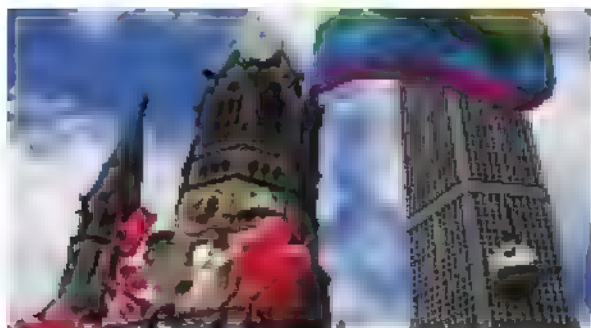
Founded in 2007, the event has gone from strength to strength, and culminates in a parade and celebration on its closing day, which this year is Sunday 1 June. The long preceding weekend is a fantastic time for LGBT people to visit the city.



Sitges Pride Sitges, Spain

Thursday 12 - Monday 16 June 2014

This year sees Sitges Pride celebrating its fifth anniversary with a bigger open air stage, celebrity guests, international DJs, tribute acts, fashion shows and much, much more. The main bar in the Gay Village will be open for the five days of the festivities - from the Thursday to the Monday night - and the annual Pride parade takes place on Sunday 15 June (from 5pm). Twenty-plus floats and thousands of participants are expected to take part in the colourful procession.



Berlin Pride Berlin, Germany

Friday 30 May - Sunday 22 June 2014

Berlin Pride, more commonly known as Christopher Street Day, has been running since 1979 and commemorates the Stonewall Riots, which took place in New York in 1969. The festival consists of various events across the weeks, including art, exhibitions, a parade and numerous parties. Over 700,000 people attended the festival in 2012. Berlin's Pride has a great reputation, and it's certainly one that we're intending to look off our list.



Amsterdam Pride Amsterdam, Holland

Saturday 26 July - Sunday 3 August 2014

Amsterdam Gay Pride is one of the biggest and most exciting Pride events in the world. Amsterdam Pride is set to have street parties throughout the last weekend of the festival, as well as some fantastic club circuit parties. The most exciting thing of course, is the Carnival Parade, which sees it snake along the city's famous canal system. Expect scantily clad men on barges galore! Whilst you're there, there's plenty to see and do throughout the city - one of the most beautiful in all of Europe.

Terrence Higgins Trust launches new HIV testing service in Coventry

HIV and sexual health charity Terrence Higgins Trust is launching a new community HIV testing service in Coventry, in a bid to drive down high rates of undiagnosed infection locally.

The new sessions will run from 1pm to 5pm on the first Sunday of each month. Testing will take place at Terrence Higgins Trust's centre on Quinton Road, with no prior appointment necessary.

The rapid testing service, which is called 'Fastest', is free and confidential. Testing is done using either a finger-prick blood test or oral swab, with the results provided within 20 minutes. Those who attend the service will be given information and support before and after the test, and

those who test positive will be quickly referred to a specialist clinic. Terrence Higgins Trust staff will also provide free condoms, information and advice on safer sex.

In 2012, there were an estimated 6,558 people living with HIV in the West Midlands, around one in five of whom were undiagnosed. Undiagnosed HIV has been identified as a factor that's driving the UK's epidemic, as someone with undiagnosed infection is far more likely to pass on the virus than someone who has tested and is on treatment.

For more information on THT's 'Fastest' services in Coventry and Warwickshire, email info.coventry@tht.org.uk or call (02476) 229292.

New 'lifeline' initiative for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans* people launches in north Northamptonshire

A new initiative and 'lifeline' for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) people has been set up in north Northamptonshire.

Corby LGBT Network provides a safe and friendly space each month for LGBT people to socialise and make friends.

The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month (at 7.30pm at a central Corby location) to share useful information and to discuss current issues affecting the LGBT community across the north of Northamptonshire.

Ian Cameron is one of the organisers of the new network. Ian says: "Many LGBT people have experienced or fear prejudice and discrimination.

"We find that some friends, family, work and college peers are supportive of our sexuality or trans status. However, there is still some intolerance out there in society.

"Often, LGBT people don't know where to turn for support and can feel isolated.

"The Corby LGBT Network can offer the much-craved acceptance and friendship that we all need as human beings."

David Walker also helps to organise activities for the network. David says: "We're a laid-back group of people, and network evenings are enjoyable and mostly informal.

"In our first three months, we've had about 20 people at each event.

"We wish to build on our successful start, and encourage more people to take part."

Anyone interested in more details can visit the Corby LGBT network website at: www.corbylgbt.co.uk, email: corbylgbt@hotmail.co.uk or phone/text: 07434 168589.

The group also has a Facebook page, which is available at: www.facebook.com/corbylgbtnetwork.

Have a healthy Birmingham Pride and get tested for free with **Healthy Gay Life**

With Birmingham Pride taking place this month, there's no better time to ensure that you have a healthy and safe weekend.

Thanks to Healthy Gay Life, one of Birmingham's biggest sexual health clinics, quick and easy testing for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C will be available for the whole weekend of Birmingham Pride on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May.

The test is simple, easy and confident at, so there's no reason not to pop in and take it. Consisting of a simple finger prick and a few drops of blood, the test really is fast and convenient, leaving you more time to enjoy the event.

If you're keen to stop by and take a test, there's no need to book an appointment. Just drop into the Healthy Gay Life marquee, located next to The Loft Lounge on Bromsgrove Street, between 10am and 6pm. Once tested, you'll be free to enjoy the rest of your

weekend, and you'll receive your results within two weeks.

If you want more information about the free testing services that Healthy Gay Life offer, give them a call on 0121 440 6161 before Birmingham Pride - or 0121 622 6252 while you're there.

And that's not all! Healthy Gay Life will also be giving away free packs of condoms and lube across the Birmingham Pride weekend, so festival-goers can have fun and play safe at the same time. These will be distributed from the Healthy Gay Life marquee, so you can grab a pack or two when you visit for your test.

There'll also be packs available in many of the city's gay bars and clubs - so if you need to pick some 'up out of hours', you'll be covered.



For more information about Birmingham's Healthy Gay Life sexual health clinic, call 0121 440 6161 or visit www.hgl.nhs.uk

WHAT DO YOU SAY
TO SOMEONE WHO
DOESN'T KNOW
THEIR HIV STATUS?
PRICK!

One finger prick and you can
have an **HIV result** in minutes
FREE • CONFIDENTIAL • QUICK

Kwik Prick 
The Rapid HIV Test at THAGE

HIV tests every Monday from 12 noon until 6pm
Thage, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester LE1 6NN
0116 254 1242 • www.thagesexualhealth.com





ACE A Choir of Equality Meets every Thursday 5-8pm Tel: 01936 420442

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone. Contact actingout@btinternet.com or visit www.actinout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group Contact: pccy@btinternet.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre Bham e: helenhouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra Contact: info@bgso.org.uk or visit www.bgso.org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Of Every Month Tel: 01384 65000

GAPP Gay and Performing Proudly! Birmingham. Call Mike 01245 300791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MICE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent Tel: Bobba 0117 692881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT Choir Meets every Tues in Leicester Call Chris on 0145 850248

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm Tel: Jayne 01902 552060

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly. www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call Jon 01245 4206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT Choir Call Gaylyn 0145 850248 or Kevin 0193 360384

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading group 1st Monday monthly 1.5-4.5pm Tel: 0121 308 0047

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT Hist. yr project in Leicestershire & R. Mand e: helenhouse@hotmail.com

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly 11am Walsall Central Library Contact: Ann 01922 653121



ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday afternoon, 2.45pm Falconer House 39 King St. Walsall Tel: 07716 273748

WS MIDLANDS LGBT Social group Every 1st Tues monthly 7-9pm in Walsall Tel: 07895 661557

BRUM IN GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in Tel: 07532 385780

BRUM DRIVING OUT Meets at

a different restaurant each month e: brumdrivingout@hotmail.com

COVENTRY LADS Social group away from the scene Call Dave 02462 292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY based in Leicester www.dmsoc.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network www.dccn.org.uk

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's social group Tel: 01332 207704

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided Call: Matt Barlow 01384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call: 0121 215121

EVERGREEN LGBT Social group in Bham Tel: 0121 412288

FAM LGBT Social Events www.famnorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call: Simon 0121 565 4106

DAYMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton Twice monthly Tel: 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community Social group meets every Thurs 8pm in Gloucester Tel: 07050 627273

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Group in The Heath Centre 1001 Street Hereford no appointment necessary

HN (HIGH 5) Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire Tel: 0116 254147

IME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton in Leicestershire monthly Tel: 0116 254002

LADS CAFE Shropshire, Hereford & Wrexham Call: 01902 221410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton Every Monday 6-9pm Tel: 01902 65000

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Parties twice for all to enjoy. Meet every Tues e: lavendermovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 0116 291 6135

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents www.gbiparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury. gbishrewsbury.co.uk

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley www.gaystoke.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30 Contact

01159476668

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating Black LGBT people in the community. West Midlands Social Group Tel: 0121 446 1066

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing the people back in since 1980 Call: 0845 080050

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West Bham LGBT Group Offers non-scene social events and activities. Call: 07976 274271

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm @ Gorgeous, Wolves. Tel: 01902 425092

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Social Non-Scene Group 4th Sat monthly Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

SHREWSBURY - CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at CHILL 3rd Monday monthly at The Alb 8-10pm Shrewsbury

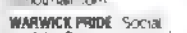
THIRD WAY Social Group for people over 18 Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Worcester 7-9pm Tel: 01905 42000

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social group Call: 01332 950684

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community Group www.brieflysay.org.uk

WAGS Walsall Armines Social Group Over 18s only e: wagswalsall@hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society. Organises events on and around the University Campus e: hello@warwickpride.org



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2012 Email: bccen@btinternet.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST campaigning and organising, promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT community's views e: dave@bclgtrg.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For all groups Quarterly Forum open to all and groups for networking e: dave@bclgtrg.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM A safe, discrete, confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives Call: 0121 436 1066

GB BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history project e: dave@gb.birminghamremembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LG&T CENTRE Most numerous social groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community. Tel: 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: 0145 492111

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's & Gays Call: 0182 420589

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community Tel: 0121 622 2592

PRISM A forum for LGBT people in Leicester Call: 0116 254 7412

RAINBOW HERITAGE Nottinghamshire. Call: 0115 934 9528

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Hosts events for professionals and the LGBT community. Tel: 0116 254 1747

Mature Groups

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry. 1st Sat monthly 11am-12pm. Call: James on 01245 448117 or Nicholas on 0246 231599

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER Meets for gay men at mature LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature gay & bisexual men in Wolverhampton 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT 50+ South Staffs social group for people 50+ e: adash@shropbuddies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday 11am-1pm Call: Trevor on 01779 86 640

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay men. Call: Trevor on 01754 82908

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature over 40s Gay and Bisexual men in Wolves Every Monday 1-4pm Tel: 01902 420592

OLDER LBG Women's network social group Derby based. Call: 07779 560284

RUBY & A Mature lesbian & bisexual women's group Tel: 01902 420592

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Sex & social for mature LGBT Tel: 0121 643 0821

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation Drop-in classes. Tel: 0121 449 5279

BIRMINGHAM LG & CM Christian Organisation group Tel: 01943 010345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact: The Revd Colin Coward on 01306 724308

DERBY QUEST For Speciality Sun 5-6 3pm Tel: 01753 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham Call: 0121 434 4111

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their families and friends. Call: 07905 421915

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Leicestershire & Notts. Tel: 0115 934 9528

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship social and supportive group founded on Quaker social principles. www.qglf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national confidential helpline serving for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics. Tel: 0800 806 0234

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pajamas At Pajama parties. Call: 01902 420592

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS Support group for lesbian and gay Christians e: lania2910@hotmail.com or call 01944 164 88

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Fraternity & Social Team www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT Fraternity & Social Team Call: Andy 0121 3061016 or visit: birminghambulls.co.uk

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham. www.bournvillehc.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team Call: Gareth 0116 254 637

LGBT Community Indoor Football Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 420592

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7-9 3pm Tel: 0121 643 0821

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 420592

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays. Contact: qncw@btinternet.com

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham Call: Andy on 0121 6346141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's SOCC Gay Swim Group. For info Call: 0121 346 1062

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOYS Gay football team founded in 2006 Call: 0115 934502

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS Call: Andy on 0121 6266998 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel: 01902 425092

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club. Tel: Andy on 0121 3061016

BIRMINGHAM CITY UPP LGBT Social events every week www.bccutlgbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union www.uosugot.com

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel: 0121 254 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University Contact: Alex e: alex@leicester.ac.uk or Hayley e: h@le.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBT ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesday & Sunday e: glg@bham.ac.uk

BIRMINGHAM GILDS e-mail network e: BirminghamGilds@btinternet.com

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women's group. Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-4pm Tel: 0121 622 323

BY WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information contact Debbie at: snape@btinternet.com

BOOTWOMEN Walks in the Midlands area. Call: 01905 420592

L BOW ROOM Social group for women over 18 Meets every 2nd & 4th Wednesday monthly Tel: 0121 643 0821

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film club every 3rd Sunday monthly www.foxfilm.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local pub e: l@kiddie-buysunder.co.uk

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP MORE EXPOSURE?

We're always looking for
• Community News • Community Groups
to feature in our Community Profiles

If you want to feature your group, contact
Ryan Humphreys Editor on 01743 281722

To find out more about all these organisations and their website and contact details

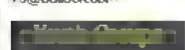
OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for the over 40s meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact on: sue@hotmail.co.uk

MISTY'S Mature Women's Group, Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

MURRYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call: 01782 266996

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly. e: me.mysell79@outlook.com



DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGB Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call 0300 123 0970

i-MIX Group for young LGBQT people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBQT young people. Tel: 0115 962 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call: 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield. Tel: 07795 611781

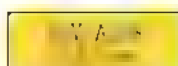
SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBQT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBQT people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Malt or Justin 01364 243220

X2Y Group for young LGBQT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. e: info@x2y.org.uk



APLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call: 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 6670 (5 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BODICES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201251

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TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs. Birmingham: 0121 694 6440

Solihull: 0121 694 6440
Coventry: 02476 229292
Nottingham: 0115 882 0121

Telford: 01952 221410
Wolves: 01902 711818

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBQT communities affected by HIV & STIs. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747



COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester. Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence. Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266996 (Loleita Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LGB COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel: 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat. Summit House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

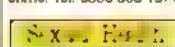
LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs Tel: 01782 266996

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RAINBOW SUPPORT, HEREFORDSHIRE free and confidential support. Call 07507 447634

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VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977



BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe Community Groups Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel: 01743 344474

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West. Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley. Call Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk in Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. Tel: 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Call 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GOAL STREET Open Monday - Friday. Call 014321 378915 for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House, West Bromwich. Call Malt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs. Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call Malt 07960 906895

OUTWINDS A social support group for gay and

bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call: 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support. Call Malt Barlow 07980 906895

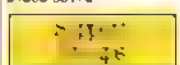
THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month. Held at The Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGB men and women and support for those affected by HIV & STIs including sexual health testing services. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGB community. Tel: 01922 613141

WHITALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre. Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT providing free confidential advice & support. Tel: 01905 681751



Aplus Poz Gay Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery LGBT Group. Call Emma 07817 745079

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday BI-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Maureen on 0121 742 0230

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call: 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call Lisa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. Call: 07779 560264

MGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel: 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

MGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIV (HIGH 5) An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group

provides Support, events, outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

WV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

WV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 440 6161. Email: info@hgh.nhs.uk

KETTERING OUT AND PROUD ASSOCIATION Organises support in the Kettering area. Call: 07877 243235

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Most numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 196842

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel: 01782 266996

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425082

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425082

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact Alison. Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people. Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Wed. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social,

networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink.parents@virginmedia.com

PINK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel past & present. Helpline: 0870 740 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 200 1696

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-in Service Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

STONEWALL Free information. Tel: 08000 50 20 20

SWAN WYNS Forest Meets the 1st Wednesday monthly. For more details phone. Tel: 07842 070 240

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

GENDER MATTERS Drop-in every Thurs. Tel: 01902 744424

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email: sally@outskirtsg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtsg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help. Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STAKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transgender or Transgender in North Staffs. www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs. Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

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Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

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Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

For information

Check out the above
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in this issue

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38 Narborough Road
Leicester LE3 0BQ
cells-sauna.co.uk

CITY STEAM

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8-9 St Mary's Church Derby
DE1 3JF
citysteam.co.uk

CITY STEAM 2

Tel: 0115 959 8603
1 Lennox Street
Nottingham, NG1 1ER
citysteam.co.uk

HEROES HEALTH CLUB

Tel: 01384 442030
4-5 Lower High Street
Stourbridge, West Midlands
DY8 1TE
heroeshealthclub.com

0950-4230(200607)28:7;1-B

Tel: 01623 422257
71 Ratcliffe Gate, Mansfield
NG18 2JB
manzfields.co.uk

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Martin Hill Street, Dudley DY2 8RT
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Suite 3, 1st Floor, Landchard House,
Victoria St, West Bromwich B70 8ER
Tel: 0121 500 5205

Email: info@shul.org.uk
Website: www.shul.org.uk
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monica.n@walsall.gov.uk ~ mel.smith@walsall.gov.uk
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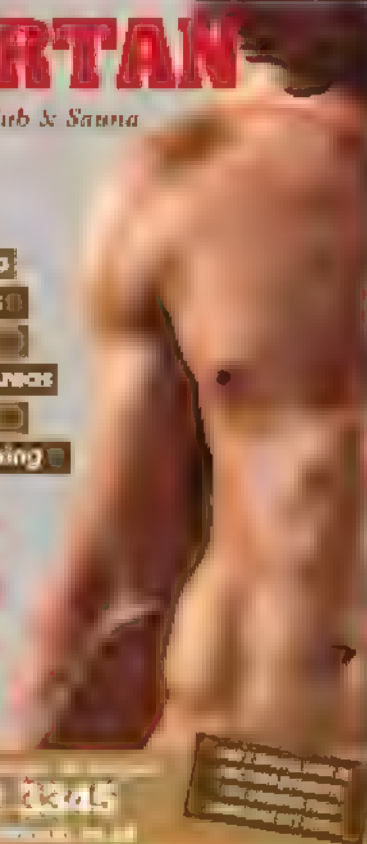
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THE GUDRUN LIMBRICK COLUMN

Camping for boys

When Alan Carr recently dressed up as a fairy for a PETA advert (be a little fairy for animals!), it sparked an interesting debate about campiness (most notably in the Guardian). 'Is a camp gay man reinforcing negative stereotypes of gay men?', they shouted. 'Is Alan, manly glasses or no manly glasses, taking us back to the gay dark-ages of mincing and pouting?' was the panicked cry.

I can remember many years ago being cornered in a pub by a relative and quizzed about whether it was possible to be camp and straight. The gossip was that the relative's colleague, who was camp as a row of tents, might actually be straight, an idea which was sending the office into a flurry of confusion and rapid rethinking. It was at that point that I realised we have something of a problem with the whole 'camp' thing.

I'm not sure 'camp' helps as a word. It conjures up images of Camp Coffee and Carry on Camping, which don't assist the debate at all. Incidentally, my old boss was a scout leader and wrote a helpful book for other scout leaders about campsite recipes. Despite my pleading, he naively called the book Camp Cooking. It was an unexpected bestseller. Anyway, I digress. I know lots of men who are camp but who are not gay at all; and likewise, many gay men who are not camp at all. I think the reason the 'gay and camp' thing stuck together so well in people's perceptions is that it's very appealing and often funny. Hence the enormous popularity of people

like Alan Carr, Graham Norton, Kenneth Williams and, perhaps, Larry Grayson (although I'm not sure he ever came out). The straight-acting gay men tend not to get prime-time TV slots or, here's a shocker, aren't known/remembered for being gay.

It's easier to see it in women, I think, not least because most of us don't get offended about it so easily.

There are lots of masculine women out there - or rather, women we perceive as having traits normally associated with men. And that's only increasing, as there's less social pressure to conform to gender stereotypes. And we do seem to have gotten over ourselves in assuming that every woman who can handle a power tool, or boss a staff team, or wears trousers is automatically gay. My life's work has been spent on this (purely in the name of research, of course), and I can assure you that many are straight - despite my best efforts.

A final word. Someone in the post-fairy advert furore said that Alan Carr is as camp as tits. I would just like to set the record straight - no tits are that camp.



ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

No man is an island

About ten years ago, I spent a week on a Club Med resort in Sardinia, where all the holiday-makers were gay. It was a tranquil, liberating experience that I remember very fondly. But it was a world away from the experience I've just read about in *The Island And The City*, by Gianfranco Goretti and Tommaso Giartosì.

The Island And The City tells a story that's been largely forgotten. Seventy-five years ago in Fascist Italy, a group of gay men were labelled 'degenerate', expelled from their homes and interned on an island, as part of an effort by Benito Mussolini's Fascists to suppress homosexuality.

Gay men were not the image of Italian manhood that the dictator wanted to project. No discriminatory laws were passed, but a climate was created in which openly gay behaviour was vigorously suppressed.

So, in 1938, around 45 men believed to be homosexuals in Catania were rounded up and consigned to internal exile. They eventually found themselves about 370 miles away on the island of San Domino in the Adriatic Sea.

Far from being the gay island paradise I experienced ten years ago, San Domino was a harsh and tough place. The exiles would arrive handcuffed, and then be housed in large, spartan dormitories with no electricity or running water.

An islander, Attilio Carducci, remembers how a bell would ring out at 8pm every day, when the men were no longer allowed out-

side.

"They would be locked inside the dormitories, and they were under the supervision of the police," Attilio recalls. "My father always spoke well of them. He never had anything bad to say about them - and he was the local Fascist representative."

But some of the rare accounts given by former exiles make clear that life was not all bad on San Domino: "We did theatre, and we could dress as women there and no-one would say anything." When the outbreak of World War Two in 1939 led to the end of the internal exile regime on San Domino, many of the men wept when they were returned to a form of house arrest in the places where they came from.

It's deeply ironic that, in the Italy of that time, homosexual men could find a degree of freedom only on a prison island. For the first time in their lives, the men were in a place where they could be themselves - free of the stigma that normally surrounded them in devoutly Catholic 1930s Italy.

Unwittingly, the Fascists had created a corner of Italy where you were, to some extent, accepted as being openly gay.

Quotes of the month...

Here we take some of our favourite (and often controversial) comments from www.midlandszone.co.uk, Facebook page and Twitter feed...



Facebook Discussion: Do gay people still need gay bars?

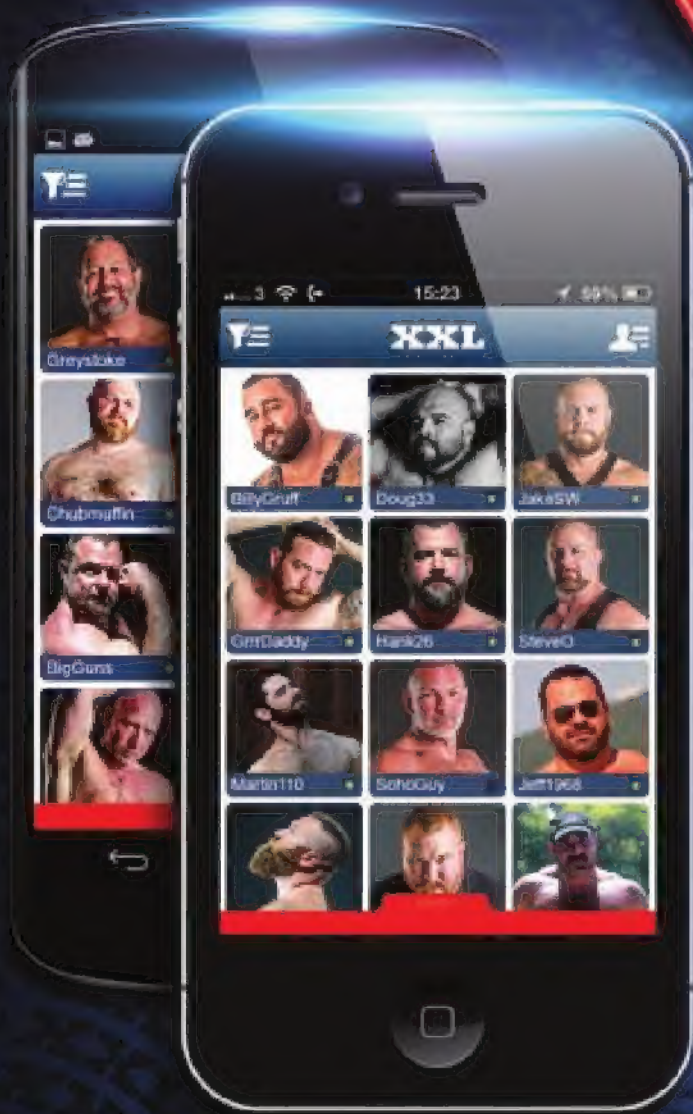
Even in an ideal world with no homophobia, I would still want to go to a gay bar! Great for meeting other gay people, which is especially important for the younger LGBT community, who're coming to terms with their sexuality and often still living at home with their parents...
April Flynn (via Facebook)

Straight people are generally made welcome in most, if not all, gay venues. I wish I could say the same the other way round.
Steve Neville-Wu (via Facebook)

Of course we do! Where else am I going to get lost with a bit of Whitney Houston and Destiny's Child! Werk!
Joseph Harrison (via Facebook)


Canal Street and other venues across the UK have lost their identity and appeal; they cater more for stag and hen parties. I personally no longer feel comfortable being myself in either a straight or a gay establishment.
Colin Crawford (via Facebook)

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